



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

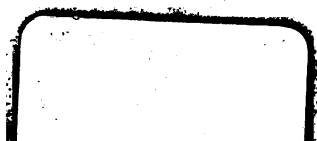
Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



CFS
Hickory

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and dates, which appears to be a record of some kind. The names are written in a cursive script, and the dates are in a more formal, printed style. The list is organized into two columns, with names on the left and dates on the right. The names are: John Smith, James Brown, William Jones, Thomas White, and Robert Black. The dates are: 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, and 1793. The list is followed by a section of text that is also written in cursive. This text appears to be a description of the events that took place during the period covered by the list. It mentions the names of the individuals listed and describes their actions and the circumstances surrounding them. The text is written in a clear, legible hand, and it is organized into paragraphs. The first paragraph describes the events of 1789, the second paragraph describes the events of 1790, and so on. The text is followed by a section of text that is also written in cursive. This text appears to be a summary of the events that took place during the period covered by the list. It mentions the names of the individuals listed and describes their actions and the circumstances surrounding them. The text is written in a clear, legible hand, and it is organized into paragraphs. The first paragraph describes the events of 1789, the second paragraph describes the events of 1790, and so on. The text is followed by a section of text that is also written in cursive. This text appears to be a summary of the events that took place during the period covered by the list. It mentions the names of the individuals listed and describes their actions and the circumstances surrounding them. The text is written in a clear, legible hand, and it is organized into paragraphs. The first paragraph describes the events of 1789, the second paragraph describes the events of 1790, and so on.



W. John

C H A R A C T E R S
A N D
A N E C D O T E S
O F T H E
C O U R T o f S W E D E N.

*Virtue stands firmer when sustain'd by Fame;
And Faults take warning from a temper'd blame.*

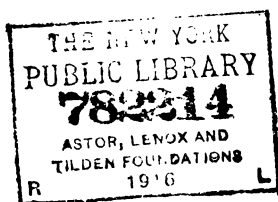
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I

A. A. F. Ristall

L O N D O N :
PRINTED FOR ELIZABETH HARLOW,
NO. 76, ST. JAMES'S STREET.
M.DCCC.

CH



A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

A Traveller, lately returned from a tour in the northern parts of Europe, having gained possession of a manuscript, containing an authentic and circumstantial account of all interesting events, of which the author has been an eye witness, in that kingdom, from the year 1770, till the month of June 1789; together with the characters of the most remarkable persons of both sexes, and anecdotes relating to their private life, as well as to their part in public affairs, the editor presumes
that

that the translation of this work, the first of its kind that ever was published during the life of the persons concerned, will not be a disagreeable present to the public. The Swedish manuscript being written with all the carelessness of a Courtier, the indulgent reader will excuse if the translation should sometimes offer the negligencies of the original,

PREFACE

PREFACE OF THE AUTHOR.

THE life of Princes is a continual show, that of their attendants a continual expectance ; first, till some part of the show is begun, and then till it finishes. Even their diversions, daily reproduced, and always the same, offer not a great deal of amusement : a rational being, with some degree of activity, must therefore look out for other occupations than those of his place. Some have recourse to intrigues, others to cards and dice ; and some few remain disinterested spectators of the game, and those are not always the less entertained. Under all the apparent monotony of Courts, there is variety enough for an attentive observer : Passions and follies, the sovereign rulers of the greatest part of mankind, have perhaps been the same in all ages of the world, but their modifications are

a 4

different,

different, in consequence of their mixture in the composition of every individual, as also their masks are varied, according to their different views and pursuits. Even the censorious reports so common in Courts, if not always founded in truth, have at least some foundation in the prevailing folly of the time, and may thus be thought of use to the historians of our species. I therefore flatter myself not to have fixed upon the worse employment of my leisure hours, in writing down what I have seen or heard, with so strict a regard to truth, as may be consistent with tolerable good morals; for the picture of vices, if any thing such might be the case, never did any service to mankind.

C O N T E N T S

OF THE

FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

THE Gentlemen of the Bed-chamber to the King of Sweden. The first Gentlemen, or Lords of the Bed-chamber. A digression on the present war between Sweden and Russia. The siege of Fredricksham; revolt in the Swedish army; and retreat of the Swedes within their own territories. The Danes make an invasion in the western provinces of Sweden. King Gustavus leaves Finland; makes a short stay at Stockholm. The garrison marches against the Danes, and the citizens take up arms for the defence of the capital. The King makes a sudden tour into Dalekarlia and the neighbouring provinces, for to raise the inhabitants against the enemy. Capitulation of Colonel Tranfeldt. The King's unexpected arrival at
Gothenburg

2 C O N T E N T S.

Gothenburg saves that city ; supplied with sufficient forces to march against the Danes ; he yields to the friendly interposition of the mediators ; as well as the Danes, who evacuate the Swedish provinces without battle. The character of the King of Sweden.

C H A P T E R II.

Character of the Queen of Sweden. How that Princess was not very happy in the beginning of her marriage. After the King learns to know her better, a perfect harmony takes place. Some persons endeavour to destroy that happy union. Rupture with the Queen Dowager, on occasion of the birth of the Prince Royal. The birth of a second son. His death is the cause of the King's invincible dislike to physicians. Characters of the Countesses Hoepken, Loevenhielm, Majerfelt, and Klinkowstroem, Ladies of the Bed-chamber.

C H A P T E R III.

Anecdotes relating to the Countess Fersen, Grand Governess of the Queen's Court, and to her husband Count Charles Fersen. The Ladies of the Bed-chamber, the Countesses Cederhielm, Armsfelt, and Piper ; the Baronesses Oernshoeld and Wrangel. Something about Baron Wrangel, the husband of this latter, his intrigues with the fair sex, and his administration of the distilleries of brandy. Two Ladies more of the
Queen's

C O N T E N T S. xi

Queen's Court, the Baroneſſes Manderſtroem and Ehrengranat, with their reſpective huſbands. Three of the Queen's Chamberlains, the Barons Stedingk, Reuterholm, and Stierneld.

C H A P T E R IV.

The Prince Royal of Sweden. His youth is very promiſing. The great joy and the feſtivities at his birth are the occaſion of an unhappy accident. His nurse the wife of a peaſant in Delecarlia. The Prince never ſaw his grandmother but a ſhort time before her death. The perſons entrusted with his education. The Governors, his Excellency Baron Frederic Sparre, and Count Gyllenſtolpe; Mr. Roſenſtein, Baron Wachtmeiſter; Mr. Bonde, and Baron Armfelt. The Prince appointed Chancellor of the Univerſity of Upſal. His viſit to that ſeat of learning.

C H A P T E R V.

Prince Charles of Sweden, Duke of Sudermania. Not much beloved by the Queen his mother. Inſtances of his great vivacity of temper. An inſtance of his modeſty and generoſity. His brotherly friendſhip, and conſtant attachment to the King. His military education. The battle of Hoghland, between the Swediſh and Ruſſian fleets. The poor opinion the Ruſſians had of the Swedes before this engagement. The general opinion in Sweden with reſpect to the Ruſſians. Anecdotes concerning Baron Nolcken,
Swediſh

xii C O N T E N T S.

Swedish Ambassador in Russia. The Duchefs of Sudermania, the Countefs Piper, Lady Charlotte Gyllenstolpe, the Countefs Brahe, and her sister, the Countefs Levenhaupt. The Duke of Sudermania has always respected the ladies of his Court. An account of his intrigues with those of a lower class. The Duke was destined to command the army in Finland, for the campaign of 1789; but prefers that of the fleet, at the humble request of all the Officers of the Admiralty.

C H A P T E R VI.

Prince Frederic of Sweden, Duke of Ostrogothia, was always the favourite of his mother. Pays his addresses to Lady Sophia Fersen, with an intention to marry her; also to the eldest daughter of Count Wrangel. He returns to a former subordinate amour. Had the command of the Swedish gallies in the beginning of the war. Was discontented, and leads now a retired life. The Princess Royal of Sweden sacrifices herself to filial duty. Is very rich, and a good œconomist. She patronizes very much the family of the late Senator Count Rudenshoeld; of whom one son and two daughters live in her Court. The General Baron Zoege, Master of the Horse, and other Persons of the Court.

C H A P-

CHAPTER VII.

Sweden divided into two parties when King Gustavus mounted the throne. The faction prevailing at the Diet assembled for his coronation, was in opposition against the Court; and made new encroachments on the Royal authority. The King signs the prescribed oath without reading it. Politicians were in constant fear of some enterprize from his side. He offers himself as a mediator between the parties. The prevailing faction suspects his impartiality. The great animosity against the Nobles obliges most part of them to seek protection at the Court. Preparations for a change in the form of government. Revolt of Captain Hellechius in Christianstad. Contrary measures of the opposite party. The King is obliged to put his scheme in execution sooner than he intended. He succeeds beyond his hopes. The General Baron Pechlin was the only one who did not submit in the first instant. Anecdotes relating to General Sprengporten, and others who had any part in the Revolution.

CHAPTER VIII.

Anecdotes relating to the life of the General Baron Pechlin. The reasons why he did not submit as soon as those who were present in the capital. He is taken prisoner, and tried before a court martial. His defence. He is set at liberty.

C H A P

xiv C O N T E N T S.

C H A P T E R IX.

King Gustavus was the happiest monarch in the world, during the six first years of the new form of government; which were also productive of many good regulations and useful establishments. But the diet of 1778 gives occasion for some discontent. The new classification among the nobility did not answer the purpose. The Diet is suddenly broke off. That of 1786 comes on very unexpectedly, and is still less successful. The King's power is more and more limited, and he carries very few of his points.

C H A P T E R X.

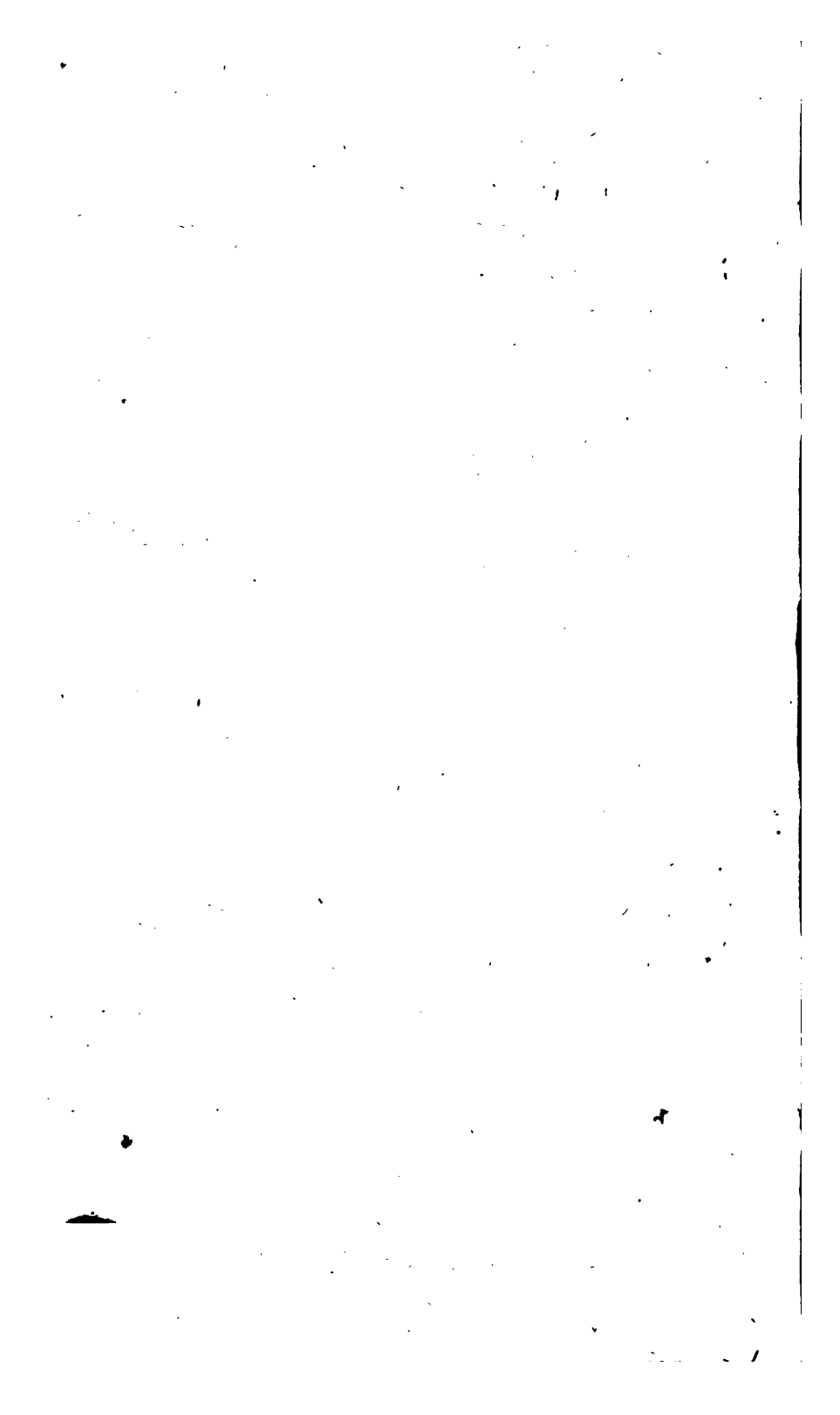
The reasons why the King seemed to avoid the convocation of the diet 1789. A supposition that he nevertheless desired it. The conduct of the nobility seemingly less prudent. The expostulations of the monarch renders them only more averse to his measures, while the other Orders enter into all his propositions. The confinement of the leaders among the Nobles causes a still greater discontent. The King, after having settled all the points with the three Orders, pays a visit to the House of Nobles, and obtains their consent to all his proposals. The confined members are released.

C H A P-

C O N T E N T S. xv

CHAPTER XI.

Destruction of the Swedish Senate. New institutions which are to supply its place. Composition of the Supreme Court of Justice. Character of his Excellency Count Wachtmeister, High Chief Justice of the Kingdom. His Excellency Count Beckfries, Second President of the before-mentioned Supreme Court.



CHARACTERS
AND
ANECDOTES
OF THE
COURT of SWEDEN.

CHAPTER I.

THERE are few Courts where the Prince merits the first attention.

In that of Sweden, the King is absolutely the leading character, and the courtiers are conspicuous only as his Majesty honors them with his confidence and favour: the monarch should therefore be the first observed; but to approach his per-

B

son

son, one must pass through a train of attendants, of whom we shall take some notice as they present themselves, lest we should not find any occasion to make acquaintance with them afterwards.

One remarkable for the finery of his dress, his lace and diamonds, is Mr. Forfelles, Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber. He bought his place at a very high price from Mr. Cederfeldt, whom the King permitted, as a special favour, to sell it. As we have no more to say of Mr. Forfelles, we may be allowed a digression on the character of his predecessor.

Mr. Cederfelt, of a good though not
opulent

opulent family, came from the country to be placed as clerk to a postmaster. The King saw him accidentally; and pleased with his handsome figure, his Majesty took him to Court, and placed him as one of his Pages. His education had been somewhat neglected, but the honesty of his character gained him the esteem of all his new acquaintances. During the preparatives of the Revolution in 1772, he overheard a conference between the King and General Sprengporten, concerning the measures to be taken in Finland: the King was extremely surprised to find him in the next room, (the door being open) and asked him what was his business there? he answered ingenuously that it was his day of attendance, and that he thought it his

duty to be at hand. The King having generally much confidence in the honesty of his servants, took no more notice of it on that occasion; but some time after his Majesty rewarded his discretion with a standard in the horse guards; and would have pushed his fortune very high, had not Mr. Cederfelt put a stop to it himself by his marriage, which was regarded by the King as a very unequal match. However he has left the court with essential marks of the favour of his sovereign, who has provided him with the place of a Major in one of the best regiments, and with means of purchasing a very good estate in the country.

Another young gentleman, of a very
good

good character, is Mr. Moellerfverd. He accompanied the King on his voyage to Italy as one of his Majesty's Pages, and has since succeeded to a deceased Gentleman of the Bedchamber, Mr. Peiron, whose tragical story may be thought worth relating.

Mr. Peiron was born a Frenchman: but his parents having made an establishment in Sweden, found means, by the intercession of the French Ambassador, to procure their son a Lieutenancy in the Swedish army, and a recommendation for employment into the French service during the last war. He entered into the regiment of Count de la Marck, and was embarked with him for the Indies; but

having made his reflections before the departure of the fleet, he desired to stay in France; which his Colonel being not able or not willing to grant him, the young officer left the fleet without leave, and returned to Paris, where his genteel figure and insinuating manners gained him the protection of the Countess de la Marck, mother to the Count, so far as to make her exert her utmost power to re-establish him in the service of France; and when that proved ineffectual, she wrote to the King of Sweden, and recommended him in the warmest terms. With all that, Mr. Peiron met with a very cold reception at the Swedish court: but having at first moved the compassion of some good natured ladies in his behalf,

behalf, his figure did the rest; and in a short time he had so well insinuated himself into the favour of the King, that he was gratified with a place of Gentleman of the Bed Chamber, had a profitable military post, and was admitted to a perfect intimacy with the King. He afterwards accompanied his Majesty on his journey to France, where he could not avoid meeting the Count de la Marck, who treated him with the utmost contempt, and made use of the most injurious expressions upon his account. Mr. Peiron paid several visits to his former Colonel, but could never get admission. At last he found an opportunity to speak with him at the opera ball, and the issue of the interview was a challenge, which the Count accepted.

This combat had very nigh proved fatal to both: the Count was dangerously wounded, and Mr. Peiron killed on the spot.

The King of Sweden received this news as he was hearing a plea in the Court of Parliament. He seemed much affected: but in the hurry of affairs and pleasures these sad impressions were soon blotted out.

Mr. Peiron had been secretly married in France. His Majesty transmitted the place of Gentleman of the Bed Chamber to his son, who is educated at the King's expence, and the widow has a very handsome pension.

Among those gentlemen who have been
in

in great favour, Mr. Borgenfierna is one who deserves to be so still. We can say the same of Mr. De Beche, whose favour must be the more lasting as it is truly founded in esteem: he has so little of a courtier, that he is known for speaking freely his mind upon all occasions, without considering if it be agreeable or not. When he was very young, he fell into disgrace for the boldness and independence of his character. On the great caroussel in Stockholm, the King once making a course for the Count Stenbock, ordered Mr. De Beche to fetch him a javelin; but the young gentleman answered he could not, it being his duty to serve the King and not the Count Stenbock. His Majesty did not approve the distinction, and would
be

be obeyed: the Page also would be excused from doing what he thought contrary to his honour: the consequence was that the King sent him a commission in a country regiment, and forbid him the court. He passed two or three years in this sort of exile, until the King meeting him accidentally, asked him how he found himself in his present situation? He answered "that he was very well; that he had made profit of occasions to learn the military service; and he had regretted nothing but the advantage of seeing his sovereign." "To enjoy that advantage," answered the King, "you may now present yourself again at Court, and I shall think of providing for you." Soon after this, he was appointed Gentleman
of

of the Bed Chamber, which place he has still conserved together with his military employments. He is now Lieutenant Colonel of the light dragoons in the King's guards, which is a place of great consideration.

These now mentioned are nearest the King's person. One of them, each in his turn, has his bed in the chamber where his Majesty sleeps, and accompanies the King wherever he goes. There are also six First Gentlemen of the Bed Chamber, but these are more for parade than for service; except the Baron Armfelt, who has business enough, as having the direction of the opera: he has also, for a long time, been reputed the first in the
King's

King's favour, and has many applications made to him from people who are desirous to obtain honours from the King. He has princely apartments allotted him in the King's palace, and there is a secret communication from the King's apartment to his; so that it may be supposed his Majesty passes many leisure hours in his company. As he has a large share of wit and good humour, and is well versed in the *belles lettres*, it was by those means he first insinuated himself into the King's favour, and he has also proved useful in several other ways. Since the beginning of the war, he has been continually in the field; and indeed the King could find nobody more proper to command the Dalecarlian volunteers: his friendly and
cordial

cordial behaviour, so suitable to their own character, has entirely won their hearts: nobody else could have persuaded them to leave their homes last winter, and march towards the capital, when they were but just returned from the frontiers of Norway. He dwelt with them continually in their camp, had his hair cut off in their manner, put on their dress, and lived with them as his companions. If the King should again want their service against the enemy, there is no doubt but they will do their best with such a commander.

The other First Gentlemen of the King's Bed Chamber are, for the present, the Barons Taube and Wrede, the Counts Possé, Ekeblad

Y Ekeblad and Stenbock;* all very worthy noblemen. The last is very young. He had that place in reversion after his father, who had a pretty easy fortune, but spent it all in the service of the Court. The General Baron Taube, has great skill in politics, and a deep know-

* NOTE of the Editor.

The Author of the Swedish manuscript has forgotten the two Marshalls of the King's Court, the Barons Stroemfelt and Cederstroem, both of them gentlemen of merit, and remarkable for a very handsome figure. The former may be yet remembered by some ladies in England. I will pass over in silence how he is with the sex in Sweden for fear of breaking some constant heart: the other, as charged with many employments and much business, has no time to lose in courting ladies of quality; but finds it more convenient to have, for his money, the company of some amusing nymph from the theatre; and, what does honour to his taste, he ever preferred talents or beauty to youth and folly. He has also been one of the most distinguished Knights in the Tournays, having hardly his equal in those exercises, excepting the King and Baron Rolamb, Master of the Queen's horse.

ledge

ledge of the affairs of Europe. The Baron Wrede is Colonel of the regiment of Uplandia; and though very young he passes for an able commander. Last summer he gave a very recommendable proof of loyalty and firmness in remaining faithful to the King, though he was closely pressed by a great number of officers to enter into the famous confederation in Finland; but he told them frankly, that he would rather expose his life than deviate from what he thought his duty.

A brother of his, Baron Otto Wrede, is also a very brave officer, but with some want of prudence, of which he had a good lesson last year. During the siege of Frederickham, he was dispatched with
a squadron

a squadron of dragoons to discover if the Swedish transport by sea was yet arrived. He gained a hill, from which he had an unbounded view of the sea shore on the other side Frederickham, and saw that the transport was not arrived: his commission thus executed, he should have returned to the camp; but he took a fancy to advance nearer the place, and fell into a defile beset with Russian infantry, who gave fire from both sides, killed many of his men, and had very nigh cut off the retreat for the rest.

As we are accidentally fallen upon the subject of this siege, it will not be out of the way to give an idea of that famous enterprize. As the artillery was transported

ported by land, and advanced too slowly for the present purpose, it was resolved to attempt a surprise. The attack was to be made at night on two different sides, and the place taken by storm. On such purpose, a detachment under the command of General Siegeroth was embarked in the galleys, with provisions for about a fortnight; which was thought the more sufficient as they had calculated but three or four days for the passage. The commander had orders to begin the attack at his first landing, and the first shot from his side should serve as a signal to the attack on the other. Unfortunately the transport was exposed to contrary winds, and did not arrive before the tenth day: but for the rest, the orders were punctually

C

executed;

executed: General Siegeroth, after having put ashore his forces with much difficulty, for want of boats and boards, and repulsed the Russian troops which attempted to hinder his debarking, made dispositions for the attack; which was instantly begun and continued with great violence, until he received orders from the other side to re-embark the troops, on the breaking out of the conspiracy in the Swedish army.

As soon as the cannonade was heard, the King concluded that the transport was arrived, and gave orders to march against the place; but some of the principal officers, headed by Colonel Heftesko, made several objections concerning the
difficulty

difficulty of approaching the fortrefs on that fide; there being but two ways, one through the defile lately experienced by Baron Otto Wrede, and the other over a marfh almoft unpaſſable. They pretended their anxiousnefs for the King's ſafety would not permit them to ſuffer him to expoſe himſelf to ſuch a danger, and they hoped his Majeſty put a greater value on the lives of his ſubjects than to ſacrifice them to no purpoſe. The King aſſured them that the difficulties were not ſo great as they imagined, and inſiſted upon being obeyed. They then threw off the maſk, and told the King plainly that they would not comply with an enterprize ſo contrary to the laws, as an offensive war without the conſent of

the nation : that they were ready to shed the last drop of their blood in the defence of their country when attacked, but as for attacking a neighbour without any provocation, they were resolved not to assist in it, and all that they would do, was to secure the frontiers from invasion. The King then applied to the troops: but the regiment of Abo, commanded by Colonel Hesteko, having given the example, a great part of the army laid down their arms, and declared they would advance no farther. The King thus seeing himself obliged to desist from his proposal, dispatched Lieutenant Colonel Rosenstein with orders for General Siegeroth to re-embark the troops, and make the best of his way back again to Lovisa ;
the

the more as he had but provisions for three or four days.

The messenger went over the above mentioned marsh on horseback, which proves it was not impracticable. The besiegers pretended also to have been in a fair way of taking the place, when the orders for a retreat arrived. Possible it might be, but with the less probability, as the Russians had set the suburbs on fire, which seems to prove that they were resolved on a longer defence. Had the attack been carried on from both sides, as intended, the success would have been more likely. True it is that the Russian fortresses were in a bad state of defence; so that had the Swedish army been better

supplied with provisions and the necessities of war, and all had done their duty, the very heart of the Russian empire would have been exposed. But the inexperience of some, and the ill-will of others, occasioned such confusion and neglect in the preparations, that the supplies necessary for the siege came too late or not at all.

It is avowed that some leaders of the aristocratical party would have made use of this opportunity to re-establish the old constitution, under the guarantee of the Russian Empress, and had made their application to her accordingly. Others, who were not in the secret, were seduced by the hope of returning to their homes. Every officer in the land troops having a
 little

little country seat or farm instead of pay, he commonly thinks the tranquil enjoyment of domestic happiness preferable to military glory. Thus they easily joined in protesting against the war, so that the King was obliged to call back every advanced post, and place them within the frontiers. Colonel Hastfer broke off the blockade of Nyflott, already reduced by famine, the only way by which that fortress ever could be taken, and such another occasion will not easily be found; in short, all the advantage on the side of the Swedes, at the beginning of the war, was lost by the contrivances of these gentlemen, who are accountable to their country for a fruitless campaign and the discouragement of the troops; the Swedish

foldier being greatly discouraged when a retreat is necessary. Suppose the King had passed the bounds of his power in undertaking this war, it was his business to make up that matter with the Representatives of the Nation on a Diet, but the duty of the officers still was to obey the commands of the King.

Some officers of distinction, who were dissatisfied with the war and would not enter into any measures that might prove fatal to their country, laid down their commissions at their first arrival in Finland. Their example was instantly followed by a number of subalterns, who preferred planting their cabbages to the richest harvest of laurels. These gentlemen

then met with no agreeable reception at their being put on shore at Stockholm. They heard themselves openly taxed with either cowardice or treason. They were hissed at public places, surrounded and pointed out as Russian pensioners, and if any body attempted to justify them from such accusations, he was looked upon as their accomplice. Baron Charles De Geer, one of the richest noblemen in the kingdom, was publicly insulted for attempting their defence; and the popular resentment would perhaps have gone farther, had he not suddenly left the city. The popular animosity was so great, that no officer dared to appear in public with a cockade or uniform, for fear of having the mob at his heels.

Such

Such was the disposition of minds in the capital at the King's return from Finland, upon news of the Danes having made an invasion in the western provinces of Sweden. In reliance on repeated protestations of friendship from the Danish Court, that side of the kingdom had been left wholly without defence. His Majesty's first care was to send off the foot guards, and the regiment of Jemlandia, to reinforce the garrison of Gothenburg, it being a common report that the Russian Court had guaranteed to the Danes the possession of that important place, with the adjacent province of Bahus, as soon as they but once could get it into their power. The capital being then without a garrison,

the

the citizens were requested to take the guard of it themselves, to which they readily agreed. They enrolled to the number of 2000, and in a short time they were most part of them in uniform, and exercised like regular troops. The King dwelt mostly at his country house at Haga, and seldom appeared in town; and that for more reasons than one, as the Senate were continually pressing him for a Diet, which he did not think proper to comply with at a time when the kingdom was invaded by foreign troops and a great part of the army infected by foreign interests. The conspirators in Finland had also very close connections with a hidden party in the capital and about the country. They were
suspected

suspected of a plot for forcing the King to accept of a peace on conditions they had already agreed upon with the Russian Ministry. But whatever was their intention, the King prevented its execution by his sudden voyage into Dalecarlia. There he was received with the utmost joy, and the brave inhabitants of that province offered him a guard of 3000 select young men, and promised that the number should be doubled if necessary. The King answered that he hoped he should not stand in need of a guard among his own subjects, but that he thankfully should accept of their offer if they would follow him in defence of their country. That proposal was also readily agreed to; and the example was followed

followed by the neighbouring provinces; so that in a short time the King had an army of volunteers to oppose against any attempt of the enemy to penetrate further into the country.

From Dalecarlia the King had taken his way to Wermlandia, where he received the news of the affair at Quistrum. Colonel Tranfelt, with seven hundred of the West-Gothia regiment and some artillery, had opposed the Danish army; but being surrounded, and overpowered by numbers, he had surrendered. Nothing appears more natural: but it has since come to light that if the Colonel had taken the position indicated in his orders from General Hjerta, and had been resolved upon

an

an earnest defence, he could have obstructed the Danes from passing the river at Quistrum, and would have put them into great distress for want of provisions, in a country already wasted by their exactions. But he had dined with the Danish Princes on the day of his surrender, and the capitulation was agreed upon before the battle commenced. The Danes advanced along the shore towards Gothenburg, which place the Prince of Hesse was the more confident of taking, as he well knew its bad state of defence, having surveyed it very attentively on his friendly visit two or three months before, and seemed to be assured that nothing had been done afterwards.

Upon

Upon the news of the enemy's approach, the chief commander, General Düretz, told the inhabitants that they had a double choice, either to give up their city at the first summons, or to let it be burnt and taken by storm. It is easy to presume their determination, had not the King arrived unexpectedly from Carlstad, having made a journey of more than an hundred miles on horseback, almost alone, and not without danger of being taken by the enemy. His dress gave so little suspicion, that on his arrival at Gothenburg, at night, after the gates were shut, the guard would not believe he was the King, and he had the greatest difficulty to get admittance. As he was in great need of repose after so rude a fatigue,

fatigue, he went directly to General Durretz dwelling house, with intent to go instantly to bed, that he might be able to rise early in the morning; but the prudent commander had already been so careful in securing his effects, that there was not a bed to be found in the house, not even a chair or a candlestick; the King was obliged to borrow all such necessaries from an English merchant who lived in the next house, and kept later hours than his neighbours. The next day the King assembled the magistrates and principal citizens, and in a very pathetic speech intreated them to assist him in the defence of their city, which the King said he regarded as one of the most precious jewels in his royal crown. They

willingly

willingly offered to do all in their power: his Majesty had but to let them know what he thought necessary for putting the place into a state of defence, and to direct their endeavours for the common safety. They gave their parade horses for carrying beams and planks, and a great number of workmen were employed upon the batteries, not one being in a state proper for bearing the canon; but in a few days all was in perfect order.

The General, on paying his respects to the King, fell upon his knees to entreat his Majesty to leave a place so little capable of a long resistance. The enemy he said, drew near, and would that very

D

day

day summon the city to surrender; and in case of a refusal the attack would follow instantly, and his Majesty's person would be much exposed. The King thanked him for his carefulness, but told him, that as he had given sufficient proofs that he was not fit to have the command on such an occasion, he should not be uneasy that he was released from that charge by the appointment of Count John Sparre to succeed him, who did not find so many difficulties in doing his duty.

It proved true that the place would be summoned on that day. The herald was much surprised on being introduced to the King: he could then expect no other answer than that which he received--that the city was
firmly

firmly resolved upon a valiant defence. To shew it was their earnest determination, the King ordered the bridge over the large river Gothaelf to be burnt, which was executed in the following night.

It is to be wondered at, that the Danes did not possess themselves of this passage. By the destruction of this bridge, they were confined to their side of the river, and deprived of all means of approaching Gothenburg by land. Redoubts and batteries soon covered the strand on the Swedish side, on every place where the enemy could attempt a passage; and the negotiations undertaken by the English and Prussian Ministers, having given the King of Sweden time to get together a

considerable body of troops near Gothenburg, he could have acted offensively, had not the mediators been so attentive to prevent all hostilities on both sides. They warranted for the Danes evacuating the invaded provinces before winter, and therefore there was no need to spend blood for a purpose that could be gained otherwise, especially as the fortune of war is so very uncertain!

The mediators were as good as their words. The Danish army retired to Norway, and the King of Sweden did not leave those parts untill the enemy had evacuated the Swedish territories. The publication of the Diet followed soon after, and the King returned to the capital,

pital, where he was received with the utmost joy.

This digression being already too long, we shall spare the particulars of that memorable diet for another occasion.

As to the character of the King of Sweden, he is generally allowed to be one of the most amiable and popular princes in Europe. He has a particular gift to gain the heart of every one. His conversation in public is full of wit, politeness, and a kind attention to make every one easy; in private he speaks with the cordiality and simplicity of a friend; he grants favours with apparent satisfaction to himself, and knows how

to refuse without giving uneasiness. His clemency is founded on his great sensibility, which could never yet permit him to punish with death or infamy any one personally known to him. He has often wished that he might never unavoidably be forced to such an act of severity, because the remembrance would ever make him unhappy. It may be said that he inherits his father's heart with the genius of his mother. Had he been a private man, he would have made his fortune either in the line of politics or literature. His knowledge in history and diplomatics is prodigious; his public speeches in the Diets, and upon other occasions, have an uncommon force and elegance, worthy such a speaker; and several plays

he

he has composed for the newly constituted national stage, are of a richness in their composition and purity in their morals that bespeak the Prince and the Legislator, and notwithstanding all the pains he had taken to prevent being known as the author, it soon became no secret that they were from the pen of Majesty.

Though now an avowed author, it has not been remarked that he ever had any jealousy of other authors. I make this observation, because what the French call *jalousie de metier* is a passion which often creeps into the noblest minds. Even the late King of Prussia, one of the greatest men of the age in which he lived, was not exempt from this foible: it is known he

never loved the King of Sweden, and I presume to say, from no other reason but that he looked upon his nephew as a rival in fame. But that he should carry his resentment so far as to insert in his *Memoires* downright calumnies on so near a relation, that, for the glory of Frederick the Second, I would willingly believe impossible. I don't know through what hands those *Memoires* may have passed; but if that article, where the King of Sweden is charged with a plot for burning the Danish fleet, be really written by his uncle's own hand, it must have been the invention of some officious courier to amuse the old Monarch in some tedious hour; for I never heard that any body knew any thing of the matter
either

either in Denmark or Sweden; and there is no reason why the Danish Ministry should have concealed it at the time, neither is it possible that such an attempt could have been carried on without some accomplices in Sweden, and certainly it would then not have been long a secret: never was King Gustavus more eagerly censured than among his own subjects.

There are some of them who never miss an occasion of blaming and even of misrepresenting his conduct. What they commonly dwell upon is an assertion that he wanted sincerity. I cannot of myself declare that the accusation is not founded in truth, but certain it is that it never was heard of among the people till after the Diet of 1778. There is much
 ' reason

reason to believe that it was occasioned by the regulations then adopted respecting brandy: many of the Representatives of the peasants having it in their instructions to obtain the liberty of distilling that liquor for private use, they had several times been about to ask admittance to the King, that they might obtain that advantage; but some gentlemen who had promised their good offices for that purpose, and well knew that the King would not grant the request, persuaded them not to mind any thing of the matter for the present, for that the King would be more pleased to do them that favour of his own will, and such they said was his Majesty's intention. The peasants at their return home flattered their countrymen

trymen with the promises that had been given them; but when these proved ineffectual, and the King a short time after laid the preparation of brandy under the crown,* it is no wonder if the people grew uneasy, and listened to the insinuations of those who wished to attribute this artful contrivance to the particular will of the King. Since that time he has been always taxed with dissimulation; and it is also possible that his manners have given some credit to such reports: persons who live with him continually cannot deny that he often seems a stranger to matters very well known to him, and on other

* When the old Bishop Serenius took leave of the King at the Diet of 1772, he told his Majesty that if he would preserve the love of the common people, there were two things he never should touch at—*religion* and *brandy*.

occasions

occasions pretends to be well instructed upon matters of which he is perfectly ignorant. But that may be a habit contracted by meditating politics, where such means are sometimes of the same necessity as countenance in a game; neither ought princes or ministers to be judged by the same rules as private men, because their first duty is to sacrifice all other considerations to the benefit of their country.

He is likewise charged with being very apt to forget his promises, which has often given his favourites occasion to ask for his hand writing as a security for his fulfilling them; but as I never heard of any particular instance of his breach of promise,

I believe .

I believe this accusation to be of no greater weight than several others invented by malice and discontent.

The King has of late been accused of too much œconomy in small objects, and too little in great ones. That, I believe, is a common fault in persons of high rank; great expences, as being commonly made in public, give a satisfaction to their vanity, but when they lay out small sums, they look upon them as impairing their resources for making up greater ones.

He is further blamed for too much familiarity with young people, many of whom grow vain and arrogant, looking upon themselves as personages of great consequence,

consequence, because the King has been pleased to jest with them and treat them on a footing of intimacy. But it must be allowed, that to a person who wants company for recreation after serious business, young people are more fitted for the purpose than old ones; and if some young gentlemen cannot bear with moderation such a favour from their sovereign, it is certainly *their* fault, and it will turn to the prejudice of none but themselves.

What is the most remarkable in the character of the Swedish monarch is a vivacity of temper and a flow of spirits that never leaves him. He sleeps very little, and supports easily the greatest fatigues. He is thus naturally bent to an active life, and war will be his element.

Should

Should he meet with success, he will perhaps be another Charles XII. though probably with more prudence.

Thus far on this subject for the present. We shall often have occasion to add a characteristic stroke. Facts are the best pictures of men.

C H A P.

CHAPTER II.

NEXT to the King, the Queen is a worthy object of our attention.

Among other eminent qualities in that Princess, it is perhaps her first merit that she meddles not in politics: she is the King's wife, and nothing else. Sweden has had sufficient experience of the evils arising from female influence in political matters, and rejoices to see upon the throne a Queen possessed of all the charms of her sex, and confining her ambition within the practice of its virtues.

With all her accomplishments, she was not so happy at first as to captivate the inclination

nation and confidence of her spouse, then Prince of Sweden. Her countenance and manners, at her first arrival in that country, bore too visible marks of the constraint and severity of her education under the Queen Dowager of Denmark, and the reception she met with from the Queen of Sweden, her mother in law, was not at all encouraging. She had also about her person some Danish domestics, who, to have her entirely in their power, inspired her with continual fear and diffidence, which naturally caused a reserve and coldness in her behaviour and totally removed the Prince's affection.

She led a very retired life as Princess, but as soon as her husband had mounted the throne, and wished to see the Court more frequented

E

than

than it had been during the reign of his father, and had signified his desire to the Queen that she should appear oftener in public and receive the nobility into her company; she readily obeyed, and appeared as content as the happiest Queen in the world. She was the more a sufferer as she really loved the King; but thinking herself slighted, pride would not permit her to betray the secret of her heart. She bore her disgrace with patience and resignation for several years, until an accident made her better known to her Royal spouse, and caused a perfect reconciliation.

The King had made a voyage into Finland, and sent an express with letters

to the Royal family, to let them know of his safe arrival. As the express had orders to return as soon as possible, they would all write to the King by the return of the messenger; and the young Duchess of Sudermania having finished her letter, she went to the Queen to tell her that the courier grew impatient at waiting, as no one else dared to interrupt her Majesty while she was writing. The Queen had just finished, and was going to give her letter to her Danish gentlewoman to write it fair, as she ever used to do with all her letters; but the Duchess snatched it up and ran away with it, saying the King should owe great obligation to her, for having, by her means, a letter written with the Queen's

own hand. She sealed it up with her own letter, and sent it away. The King, who had never seen the Queen's hand writing before, was surprised and highly charmed with the contents. There was a delicacy of sentiment and a gentleness in the expressions he had never found before in her letters. He read it aloud to some of his favourites, with great satisfaction; and after having finished he asked them, with a sort of triumph, what they thought of the letter? "From the tender concern the Queen expresses for my health and welfare," said he, "I should almost have the vanity to believe that she loved me." A young gentleman present had the boldness to ask if his Majesty had never known that before?

The

The King startled at the question, and answered, with a serious look, that he had so many proofs to the contrary, that he never could persuade himself she had for him any real affection. The gentleman answered, that if his Majesty would permit him to reply, he dared to assert that all such ideas were fallacious, and put forth by persons who had an interest in creating divisions in the Royal Family; and upon the King's asking him how he could be so certain of the truth of his assertion, he frankly owned that he was upon terms of the greatest intimacy with a lady who had a good share in the Queen's confidence, and it was by that means he came by his knowledge of her Majesty's sentiments; and that it now depended

upon the King to assure himself of their reality whenever he pleased. The King having a great opinion of the character of the gentleman, was almost persuaded; and in consequence he wrote a letter to the Queen, full of the warmest expressions of esteem and friendship, assuring her, he should think himself happy if, at his return, he might be convinced of the reality of the sentiments expressed in her letter: in the mean time he begged the favour of having another letter written by her own hand, that he might experience again the pleasure which the former had given him. The Queen, agreeably surpris'd at so unexpected a change, answered according to the dictates of her heart; and when the King was expected home,

home, she prepared a splendid feast for his return, and received him with that modest tenderness so flattering to it's object. That very evening they came to an explanation, and were convinced of their former mistake on each other's sentiments: the King reconducted the Queen to her apartments, and for a long time after he had no other bed chamber than hers. The Danish gentlewoman being convicted of having altered the Queen's letters, was dismissed from her service, and sent out of the kingdom; the young gentleman who had undertaken the Queen's defence was rewarded by many rich presents from her Majesty; and the King, as well upon that confi-

deration as in respect to his merit, has since raised his fortune in an eminent degree.

The unexpected harmony within the Court, very much puzzled some ladies and gentlemen who had formerly taken the liberty to divert themselves at the Queen's expence. They would at first persuade themselves and others that it was but political on the King's side; but having tried his disposition, and finding him serious, they were quite out of countenance. They now repaired to the court of the Queen Dowager, who they knew never loved the young Queen, as having come into the family contrary to her advice. They presumed she would not be dissatisfied with hearing reports and discourses

courses injurious to a person she disliked:
 nor were they much mistaken in their
 conjectures: the palace of the Queen
 Dowager became the repository of all
 the calumnies invented against the young
 Queen, and some were of a nature not
 to be suffered. The Queen Dowager
 having repeated these accusations, they
 came to the knowledge of the young
 Queen, who then losing all patience, went
 directly to the King, and told him that
 she had long been a sufferer in Swe-
 den from the Queen Dowager's ill hu-
 mour and persecutions, and had never
 made any complaint, but that when her
 honour was attacked she could bear it no
 longer; that it was his Majesty's duty
 as King and husband to protect her from
 such

such a treatment; and the satisfaction she required was that the Queen Dowager should either disown that injurious slander, or name the person from whom she had her information. The King was very unwilling to enter on such an explication with his mother; but as he could not refuse that justice to his spouse, he made a visit to the Queen Dowager on that account, and ordered some of the Senators to be present. He told his mother plainly what was the matter, and asked her if she had really been capable of such injurious discourse respecting her daughter in law? The Queen frankly owned, she could not deny that she had dropped some words on that subject, but only within her own family; and she
 thought

thought a mother might speak in confidence to her children, without fear of its being reported and misconstrued into a calumny. The King then asked who had made such a report to her? She answered, that though she had been betrayed herself, it was too much below her dignity and principles to betray others; but for her own part she would make all the reparation that could be required from a Queen and a mother, and therefore assured him she had never believed these reports; she had only mentioned them by way of jest, and that with persons from whom she could have no apprehension of its being divulged. The King could not urge any further satisfaction, and a good intelligence seemed

to

to be fully restored between the two courts; till the birth day of the Princess Royal, when an unhappy mistake occasioned a new rupture, which lasted during the Queen Dowager's whole life.

I call it a mistake, because I have been assured by a person who knew all the secrets of the Queen Dowager, that on this occasion she was really misunderstood. It was so far from her intention to disturb the universal joy on that happy occasion, that she had prepared a rich present for her grandson; she had Marshall Piper and his Lady with her very late that night; and on the joyful occasion they had emptied several bottles of Champaign together: but being at last
over-

overpowered by sleep, they had retired to bed, and the Queen Dowager was slumbering, when a letter was brought from the King; in which he notified the birth of his son, and expressed his wishes *that his mother might not fail partaking of his joy.* The Queen, half sleeping, wrote an answer, in which she congratulated the King on the birth of his son; but taking his wish for a kind of doubt, she could not help adding, *that if a veil yet covered his eyes, she hoped he would once better know her sentiments towards him.* Several persons surrounded the King when he opened the letter; and these last words having been misunderstood, or perhaps misrepresented by some secret enemy of the Royal Family, caused an universal consternation.

Those

Those, who had not seen the letter thought it yet worse than any misconstruction could make it, and every one being eager to show his zeal upon the occasion, the Queen Dowager was talked of with horror ; infomuch that the King was induced to send her a message, that his anxiousness for her safety obliged him to give her notice he could not answer for the effects of his people's resentment if she should venture to appear in public. The Queen Dowager so little thought of having done any harm, that she had ordered her coach to be in readiness, and was already on the way to the Royal Palace, when she received the King's message. She at first was at a loss how to understand such a warning; but matters having been explained

plained to her, she had too much pride to condescend to a justification, and therefore returned to her dwelling house, and never after saw the King or her grandson, till a few days before her death.

The young Queen soon recovered, and appeared in public with the most joyful acclamations of the people. Adored by her subjects, she consoled herself for being hated by her mother-in-law.

Two years after she had another son, who seemed very strong and healthy, but died in cutting his teeth. The death of this prince put the physicians in perfect discredit with the King, and he has never since suffered any of the faculty about his person.

person. He had been present at their consultations, and found that what they agreed upon when together, each of them condemned when separately consulted, and proposed his own method. He is now attended by two surgeons, one of whom had the good luck to be at hand at the time his Majesty broke his arm when he was to meet the Empress of Russia at Fredericksham, and has ever since been in credit. The university of Upsal has, by way of courtesy, decorated both these gentlemen with the title of Doctor of Physic, though neither of them were bred up to that science.

The Queen of Sweden is fond of magnificence in her apparel, and has spent much
! money

money on jewels; but she otherwise observes a very strict œconomy; and except what she yearly gives to the poor, and the pensions paid to a couple of ladies who make her daily company, there are few persons who ever had any proof of her generosity. These two ladies had formerly been her Maids of Honour, and since their marriage have continued their attendance and preserved the favour of the Queen, by telling her the news of the day, and complimenting her on her beauty, elegant shape, exquisite taste in dressing, &c. thus women of the highest rank, and possessing the most eminent qualities, are equally subject as others to the passions of their sex.

For the ordinary attendance on the Queen, there are eight Ladies of the Bed Chamber, chosen from the first families: three of them are known under the name of the Graces,* and are the more entitled to a place nearest the Queen.

The Countess Hoepken, eldest daughter to his late Excellency Count Charles Fernsen, was endowed with every charm of her sex, and is still one of the finest ladies of the Swedish Court. The delicacy of her features, her tall and easy shape, and a seducing sprightliness in her manner, made her early an object for the

* First given them by Mr. Kellgrén, in a fine poem called the Baptism of the Graces.

admiration

admiration and addresses of many gentlemen of birth and fortune; among whom her choice fell upon the young Baron Hoepken, who had no quality worthy of that preference but a handsome figure. But Love is born blind, and his eyes are seldom opened but when it is too late. Baron Hoepken knew so little the value of his conquest that when he was congratulated upon his marriage, he answered coldly, "What should I do? the girl was in love with me, and I could not get quit of her." His preferable pleasure and sole occupation was drinking and rioting with some merry companions, and yet he was so jealous of his wife that he suffered her to receive no company at home; and she could not even make a visit to her mother without suspi-

cions of some amorous intrigue. When she was invited to sup with their Majesties, he desired she would feign some indisposition that she might be excused: and when she would not comply with his request, he treated her in the most barbarous manner, inso-much that she at last found herself obliged to take refuge with her parents, who, to put her quite out of her tyrant's power, sent her to one of her uncles in a distant province, where she remained some time in a state of widowhood; though it depended on herself not to be in want of consolation.

But she still loved her husband; and upon his frequent sollicitations and solemn promises to change his conduct, he was
allowed

allowed to make her a visit, and knew so well how to insinuate himself, that he once more got her into his power. It lasted not long before he resumed his former way of living; but then she was soon saved from his brutality: she was called to court to be one of the Queen's Ladies of the Bed Chamber, and her husband was ordered to stay with his regiment, where his debauchery soon put an end to his life.

As a widow, she has not been free from accusations of gallantry; but though she has had several proposals made her for another marriage, especially after the death of her father, who left her a considerable inheritance, yet she seems resolved to pre-

serve her liberty. If any one should make her change her resolution, it is likely to be Mr. Wright, Gentleman of the King's Bed Chamber, who has a long time been in her favour.

There is in Sweden one of the most skilfull sculptors in Europe. When he came home from Italy, some years ago, the King asked a copy in white marble of the two precious remains of antiquity, the Apollo of Belvedere and the Grecian Venus. The latter being without a head, Mr. Sergel preferred the Countess for a pattern to supply this want, the more as her naturally bearing her head somewhat inclined to one side, approaches the attitude of that famous statue. The copy, placed
before

before, a glass in the chief saloon of the King's Palace, is of the most perfect execution, and the resemblance of the head surprising. A gentleman, gazing with admiration on the several beauties of this statue, whispered to the Countess that he believed the sculptor's fancy had been so active as to guess at more than he had seen; she answered she could do herself the justice to assure him it was no flattery in the compliment.

Her sister, the Countess Loevenheim, perhaps with less regular beauty, has so many charms upon her features, such an innocence in her looks, and a gracefulness in her manners, that when she is present it is difficult to give any other the prefer-

ence. She was married very young to a nobleman, who had inherited a large fortune but had spent most part of it in the tour of Europe. The true state of his affairs being a secret unknown perhaps even to himself, his supposed riches were an inducement to her family for accepting his proposals, though the bride had no great inclination for his person; but he always said, that if she could not love him, she should at least be obliged to grant him her esteem.

A few days after the ceremony, he retired to a very fine estate he had within a few miles of the capital, with a firm resolution to establish his residence there, to take care of his œconomy, and enjoy
domestic

domestic happiness. His charming lady readily agreed to all his propositions, and though in the midst of winter, she made no objection to leaving the town and the Court, though both offered a great variety of pleasures in that season. She soon accustomed herself to a retired life, and was well satisfied with her situation; when her husband, tired with the uniformity of a fortnight's matrimonial bliss, cast a curious eye upon the growing charms of a young chambermaid; and to find employment for his lady while he was pursuing the object of his desires, he sent for some friends from town, who did not fail to present themselves, after having given the hint to others that the young couple already wanted company. Visitors now became

so

so numerous, that the Count and his lady were at last obliged to pretend business in town in order to get rid of them. The Countess was now introduced into high life, and her husband did not think of the danger before it was too late.

Among a great number of admirers, the Duke of Sudermania was the favoured man. He gained her affections by accommodating his behaviour to the innocence of her notions. He had with her the easy manners of a friend, amused her by a sprightly and diverting conversation, gave her some little presents, which were attributed to Mr. Beilon, an old friend of her father's; and it is proved by experience that if one may but at
first

first gain so much of a lady's confidence as to have small secrets with her, greater ones will follow, and friendship between young persons of different sexes commonly breeds into love. The young Countess was one of the loveliest persons of her sex, and is perhaps the only woman who ever fixed the heart of that Prince. But their mutual attachment was the source of much future trouble to them both.

As the King had no issue by his marriage, and his antipathy to the Queen shewed no probability of his having any, it was resolved that his brother should marry; and to assure the harmony between him and his future spouse, the poor Countess was exiled into Saxony,

to

to which place her husband was appointed Ambaffador for that purpose. She could have paffed her time very agreeably in that polite Court, the more as Prince Charles of Saxony was her zealous and constant admirer; but her firft attachment had probably too much filled her heart to admit of any new impreffion, and I am told that her children and her mufic were her chief amufement during her ftay in Drefden; untill the King of Sweden, judging her abfence of no farther neceffity, called her back for to be one of the Queen's Ladies of the Bed Chamber. She never fince has feen her husband, whose skill and knowledge in the diplomatical line has ever caufed him to be employed
that

that way, and certainly there are few persons more fit for such a place.

At her return the young Duchefs of Sudermania became her first friend; and the Duke, having now adopted other manners with the fair sex, was no more dangerous to his former mistress. It was observed that the King paid her a great distinction, and would always have her in his company; but that was probably more in respect to her conversation than for any other motive. Her heart was in a state of perfect indifference till the young Baron van Effen appeared at Court, and was captivated with her charms. The character and conduct of this young nobleman certainly deserved that exclusive affection,

of

of which he has been an object for several years; and the Countess has lately given him a proof of her disinterested friendship by approving and forwarding his marriage with the charming daughter of Baron Charles Degeer; one of the most advantageous matches in the kingdom.

The last among the three graces is the Countess Mejerfelt, daughter to the late Count Wrede Sparre; she is the eldest of the three, and was the most beautiful lady at Court before the other two made their appearance there. It is not to be supposed that so fine a lady should be without admirers. The malicious world, consisting chiefly of persons who believe themselves

selves entitled to judge all after their own
 conduct, and think it impossible an hand-
 some woman could be perfectly reserved,
 have put several lovers upon her account,
 as Count Hefenstein, Baron Ehrenswerd,
 and others; but true it is that she has al-
 ways behaved with a decency and circum-
 spection that give very little room to such
 suppositions, the less, as her husband was
 always the first instructed of all declara-
 tions made to her; and he put such a con-
 fidence in her virtue that she has enjoyed
 the most unbounded liberty. Some peo-
 ple think that method the best to be
 certain of the fidelity of a wife. None but
 the fair themselves know if it be true;
 but I am sure they will keep the secret.

A lady

A lady very worthy of a place among the Graces, and among the Muses too, is the Countess Klínowstroem, eldest daughter of Count Axel Ferffen: I shall say nothing of her, for fear of saying less than she deserves.

C H A P.

CHAPTER III.

THE Countess Dowager Fersen, Grand Governess of the Queen's Court, and mother of the *Graces*, was in her youth perhaps the first beauty of the kingdom. There is still a picture of her to be seen at Mr. Pasch's, painter, and it is an object of general admiration. She was bred up in the house of her uncle, late Count Tessin, accompanied him and his lady into France, and came home with every accomplishment that nature and education are capable of giving. She was then placed at Court as Maid of Honour to the Princess Royal of Sweden,

G

den, the mother of the present King, and from thence she was married to Count Charles Ferfen, one of the gentlest and most accomplished young noblemen of his time, and a great admirer of the fair sex. He was so taken with her beauty that he would have run mad or killed himself, had he not obtained her hand. One should never have expected that such a fine lady would make so excellent a wife. As soon as she was married, she confined herself to a domestic life, took care of her œconomy, and placed all her ambition on preserving the affection of her husband; which at length proved no easy task, he having too great a passion for the sex to be long bound to one single object. Tho' he

he always loved his wife, he could never meet with a handsome woman without paying her his addreffes; and when in the country, he did not even difdain beauties of the lower clafs. Once he had caft his eye upon a farmer's daughter in the neighbourhood; he took many a folitary walk on her account; and went even to church for the fake of feeing her. One Sunday, when he had been gazing upon her during the whole fervice, his young lady took a fancy to difguife herfelf as much like the girl as poffible, and with a bafket of ftrawberries on her arm, and her face covered with a large handkerchief, fhe put herfelf in his way. The Count could not avoid being miftaken and betraying the fecret; fhe rallied him

so agreeably upon his new passion, that he was quite cured of it, and returned with all his tenderness towards his lovely spouse.

But it lasted not long before he had some new fancy of the same kind; and when she was convinced it was impossible to fix him, she patiently suffered his gallantries, and had the good sense to make the best of her fate. She never made him any reproach, or apparently abated any thing of her tender affection towards him; and by such a prudent conduct she always preserved the first place in his esteem and friendship. But to divert herself from a concealed grief, she exerted towards the poor the goodness and benevolence of her heart; she founded

an

an hospital for old sickly women in a distant part of her own dwelling-house, soothed their pains with the kindest attention, and very often their cloaths were sewed by her own hands. With such occupations, and the care of her family, she passed her time, till the marriage of the King, then Prince Royal, when she accepted the place of Governess in the Court of the Princess, his spouse; where she has continued ever since, universally respected and beloved for the prudence of her behaviour, the goodness of her character, and her easy politeness to every body. It was chiefly for her sake her husband was elevated to the prerogatives of the senatorial dignity, that she might be of due rank to be promoted to the place

of Grand Governess after the Countess Hierne, who resigned; and for all the mortifications she suffered at Court ought to have done so long before.

This lady, though a sister to the famous General Ehrensværd, had been educated so narrowly, that she did not understand French; and as it is the duty of the Grand Governess to receive the foreign Ministers at her table as often as it is *Grand couvert* at Court, she was in the greatest perplexity when any of them addressed their conversation to her; and as she would always cover her ignorance under some affected absence of mind, she often was suspected of want of politeness and due attention, and was exposed to raillery
and

and keen reproaches upon that account. For to help her out of this trouble, she commonly had her daughter present, a young lady renowned for wit and sprightliness, who should keep up the conversation for her mother. But as she was not always satisfied with the old lady, she had also her moments of absence, or engaged herself in so warm disputes, that she was to be called upon several times before she would come to assistance; and these scenes often produced a great deal of mirth among the rest of the company. Such is the power of ambition, that it makes us endure the greatest mortifications, rather than to give up a vain title or a glimmering place. But we must

any favour from the King had given him more satisfaction, than when he at last was charged with the direction of that institution, for the establishment and progress of which he had given himself so much pains.

After his death, and the retreat of his assistant, Mr. Zibet, the gentlemen who had the direction of the theatre being very skilfull indeed, but very new in the business, the King has more particularly taken notice of all what belongs to this department, and bestowed great advantages on poets as well as actors; so that this part of literature has never met with more encouragement than at present in Sweden.

Returning

Returning to the Queen's Court, we find the Countess Cederhielm, a sister to the late Count Stenbock, worthy to be placed on the same line with the Countess Ferfen. With the same domestic virtues, and the same prudent conduct, she has a very generous heart, and has done a great deal of good. Her sentiments towards her relations are also highly commendable. During a long and desperate illness of her nephew, the younger Count Stenbock, she took care of him herself, and saw him as often as her attendance at Court would possibly permit. Her presence and affectionate behaviour did not a little contribute to keep up his spirits and promote his recovery; she is also

adored

adored by her nephews, and respected by every body who know her.

Another very estimable lady at Court is the young Countess Armfelt, of the illustrious family Delagardie. Though she has a great deal of wit and sprightliness, nothing but good sense appears in her behaviour. She is an affectionate wife and careful mother, and seems to prefer domestic contentment to all the pleasures of the Court.

I had almost forgot the Countess Piper, who, according to her rank of Governess, should have been placed next to the Countess Fersen. She is remarkable for having the richest jewels among all the ladies

ladies at Court, and some malicious people have said it was the principal reason of her preferment. Her Lord and husband was lately great Chamberlain to the Queen; but having taken some offence during the late Diet, he resigned his place, and would have no connections any more with the Court. As he is very rich, he could indulge his resentment without any great detriment to himself; but many who followed his example, and were not in the same happy circumstances, may probably, on some occasion, have reason to repent of their precipitance: among those I may reckon his younger brother, who was one of the Queen's Chamberlains.

Another of the Queen's Ladies of Honour

nour, the Countess Oxenstierna, has also her husband at Court, Baron Oxenstierna, being Master of the Horse to the Queen. This couple are said to have lived together with perfect abstinency, it having been a condition on the lady's side before marriage. 'Twas a common report, some years ago, that they were fallen into disgrace at Court, for having parodied in a very shocking manner, at their country seat, the King's carousal at Drottningholm; but his Majesty was so much above resenting a censure intended more for mirth than offence, that he caused a divertisement of the same kind to be represented at Court, and laughed heartily at its dullness.

The

The Baroness Oernshoeld, without being a beauty, is a very charming lady, and has had so many admirers, I had almost said lovers, that I am sure she cannot tell the number of them. Her attentive kindness towards her favourites assures their constancy a great deal longer than it is usual at Court, and her captivating civilities to every body attract a number of suitors; but with all that she seems not much to have incurred the jealousy and hatred of her sex; as she has commonly the honesty of respecting the property of her friends, every woman claims a title to her friendship. Her sister, Miss Berchner, with more personal accomplishments, has acted her part with less advantage. Think-
ing

ing that riches and beauty intitled her to the highest pretensions, she resolved to marry a Senator or not to marry at all. She succeeded so far in her wishes, that one of the first noblemen in the kingdom, the late Count Horn, paid her his addresses many years, and that she was almost reputed his wife ; but he died before the ceremony, at the age of seventy.

We have yet one more of the Queen's Ladies of Honour, the Baroness Wrangel, who with the same advantages as the above-mentioned lady, had almost resolved never to marry. But it was impossible to resist the persuasive talent of Baron Wrangel, who has made it his principal study to delude the fair sex. He would have
died

died at her feet, had he not obtained her hand; but after a short time he neglected her, and so little dissimulated his partiality to several ladies of loose characters, that a separation took place between them, and she has since lead a single life; while her husband has made his tour with a number of women, who, after a short illusion, have all been left to a common fate, deserved by some, but one of them certainly merited a better destiny.

Mrs. Rath, a young lady of the most genteel figure, and all the accomplishments that a liberal education can give, was newly married to a gentleman of consideration and fortune, and had great expectations from her grandfather, who is

H

very

very rich, and by whom she was greatly beloved. As her husband allowed her much liberty, the house was frequented by many young gentlemen, some of whom did not fail to make her declarations of their passion; but she behaved with unblemished reserve and decency untill Baron Wrangel was introduced to her acquaintance: under his instructions she soon became a fashionable lady, and having first given up her reputation, her virtue soon compleated the sacrifice. But the vanity of her lover was not to be satisfied with a common triumph; he abused his power so far as to make her desert her husband's house, and live publicly with her seducer. Her parents made several attempts to get her out of his hands;

hands; but her grandfather, a man of strict honour, obliged them to renounce her as their daughter, and he tore in pieces the will he had formerly made in her favour.

Forfaken by her friends and relations, she was entirely in the power of her ungenerous seducer. She followed him into a distant province, and was there regarded no better than a housekeeper. At last he pretended a tour abroad, on purpose to get rid of her, and no one knows what is since become of her.

It would have been happy for Sweden if that gentleman had bounded his ambition within his ravages among the fair, and that the finances of that country had

not also been an object of his attention. It was from him that the project came for laying the distillation of brandy under the crown.

To say nothing of the encroachment made by that monopoly on the natural and civil right of husbandmen, to employ the products of agriculture, to whatever use may prove the most advantageous to them in their private œconomy, and that they might as well be denied the privilege of brewing and baking for their families, as the distilling of brandy; the scheme was so poorly conceived, and so erroneously calculated, that nothing but the specious arguments and irrefragable eloquence of the author of the scheme could have brought

brought it to be adopted. But it is on wonder that the Baron employed all the powers of sophistry and persuasion to have it put into execution, as he had a prospect of being one of the chief directors, and of making his fortune, before the defects of such an establishment could have been experienced; and so it happened.*

It was the less expected that this project would be put in execution, as it had at first met with strong opposition from his Excellency Baron Lilljencrantz,† then Se-

* NOTE of the Editor.

The author of the Swedish manuscript seems rather too severe in his remarks on the conduct of the gentleman in question; for certainly a man may be a bad calculator with the best intentions.

† It was so much the more disinterested on the side of Baron Lilljencrantz to oppose this brandy act, as this establishment was of the greatest advantage to his fortune, the

cretary of State for the Finance Department, and to whom Sweden is indebted for the realization of its stock of money and its national credit: but any one who promises millions is always sure to be listened to; and if some part of his scheme looks plausible, he has a very good chance of dazzling our clearfightedness upon the rest.

It cannot be denied but that the profit would have been very great, had it not been absorbed by previous expences in buildings, barrels, and other necessaries, to which is to be added the yearly charges, such as the salaries of a great number of per-

corn produced in the country not being sufficient for the consumption, he undertook the importation at half the profit commonly taken by merchants on commissions of that kind, and has made considerable sums of money in so doing.

sons

sons employed in the business, reparations, and numberless accidental losses, such as several of the distilleries being burnt to the ground thro' the carelessness of the common workmen, and the unfaithfulness of cash-keepers, both cases having been very frequent. When all these articles were deducted, the revenue from brandy did not come up to the fourth part of the calculations.

If we were to put into the account all the damage the country has suffered, by the destruction of woods around the places where the distilling houses have been established, and the loss of time and labour for agriculture, by the husbandman's being obliged to send a man and horse often twenty or thirty miles, for a small quantity of brandy, the Royal distilleries

will, in their effects, prove rather prejudicial even to the crown itself. The only method for having a sure revenue would have been, to farm out the distillation in the cities to brewers, and to lay a tax upon the land, which would most willingly have been paid for the liberty of distilling the liquor for their own use. But as such a regulation wanted no Directors, it was proposed by nobody.

After so long a digression upon a subject so foreign to the Queen's Court, how shall I come back again to her Ladies? I have already slightly hinted at her two favorites, who, though no more in service, have formerly been her Maids of Honour, and have ever since maintained themselves
in

in her confidence, so as to be almost the sole company of her own choice. Both of them deserve being mentioned with some particularity.

The Baroneſs Ehrengranat is a lady of much wit, adorned by learning and tempered with good nature. As the bounties of the Queen have enabled her to ſupport her family in a very eaſy way, ſhe has obliged her huſband to retire from ſervice, and eſtabliſh himſelf at Upſal, to enjoy the benefit of the Univerſity in the education of his ſons, and in the mean time have them always under his eye. During their childhood, ſhe kept them conſtantly in the country to lay a good foundation for their health. In ſhort, ſhe

is

is the best and most prudent of mothers, ,
and the sentiments of her husband towards
her prove that she is also one of the best of
wives.

The Baroness Manderstroem is now a
widow lady, but has been renowned for
an extraordinary good behaviour and
complacency to a very singular husband.
He was a gentleman of great learning and
abilities; several of his Latin inscriptions
may be cited as models worthy imitation;
but the libertinism of his principles and
conduct was a blot upon his character.
He haunted all the women of bad life in
town, appeared with them in public, and
commonly made his wife the confidant of
his filthy adventures. If that may be at-
tributed

tributed to his frankness and great trust to her indulgence, it was certainly no proof of a regard for her purity of mind. From his example, I would almost in general venture, from a man's behaviour in familiar life, to conclude as to his genius: the literary productions of the gentleman in question abound in energy and erudition; but he never succeeded on any subject that required delicacy.

Among the Queen's Chamberlains we may first remark the Colonel Baron Stedingk. He distinguished himself very much in the French service during the last war rather by his courage than prudence;* but as he is

* He has lately fought several battles against the Russians in Finland, where it seems neither courage nor prudence have been wanting.

young

young, he may yet have time to acquire the latter quality, which is almost more necessary in an officer of superior rank.

Baron Reuterholm is a son to the famous Senator of that name, who was the only nobleman of his rank who never had any star or ribbon, nor any other mark of favour from the Court. The son is likely to tread in the footsteps of his father, on the tombstone of whom he has engraved—That he died within a short time after the revolution in the government of Sweden, and could not survive the liberties of his country.

The young Baron Reutenholm has long been united in friendship with Baron Stierneld

Stiernel, formerly one of her Majesty's Chamberlains, but who resigned his place upon a very slight occasion.

One evening at the opera, Baron Stiernel being on guard and holding the mantle of the Queen, it happened that he was engaged in conversation when the play finished, so that he did not observe when the King rose and made a sign to the Queen to pass before him; but her Majesty looking about her and waiting for her mantle, the King, who probably had some business, grew impatient, and when Baron Stiernel came up to the Queen's chair, his Majesty said with some passion, " 'Tis very singular that people never mind their duty." The
Chamberlain

Chamberlain, who for some time had been very much in favour, took the liberty to make his representations about the word *never*, and said that it was the first time he ever had been found wanting in any duty, and he thought his present fault of so little consequence that it was hardly worthy taking notice of, much less to merit so severe a reprimand from his sovereign. The King was the more piqued at these expostulations, as he perhaps found within himself that he had been too hasty, but he would have acknowledged and apologized for it of his own will, without being teized into it: and the gentleman, though of a very good and honest character, having himself a great deal of warmth in his temper,

per, ought also to have borne with silent submission a moment's vivacity in his master. But the question once moved, and both being resolved not to be in the wrong, the contest gave birth to a discontent on both sides, which Baron Stierneld has carried rather too far, by manifesting it in his public conduct, especially at the last Diet, and the King has certainly taken a more noble revenge in releasing him with the other confined gentlemen, without shewing any particular resentment.

C H A P T E R IV.

THE Prince Royal of Sweden is generally allowed to be one of the most promising youths of his age. At the early years of seven, he could keep up a conversation with Senators, Foreign Ambassadors, and other persons who visited his Court, and his progress in the several branches of knowledge suitable to the place he is destined to fill, is above what could be expected even from a son of Gustavus III.

The King has been very happy in the choice of all the persons entrusted with the education of the young Prince ; he has been taught
rather

rather by discourses than by books, so that he has not had occasion to take that disgust for instructive reading, so very common in young persons of a premature education. It has proved a great excitement to him, that he has been taught to look upon himself as a child belonging to the kingdom, and accountable for the use of his time to the Representatives of the Nation, who had also been his god-fathers. He has been twice examined in the presence of the Deputies of the four orders, with as much satisfaction to them as encouragement to himself. From a commendable attention not to weary him by a too constant application to his studies, they are varied as much as possible, and intermixed with amusements. He has

also been early inured to all the show and constraint that accompanies Majesty, in order that they may fit the easier upon him when the time comes that will make subjection to them his duty.

The birth of this Prince caused the utmost joy in Sweden, and was celebrated with the greatest magnificence. Besides the usual festivities, with illuminations, fountains of wine for the people, &c. large triumphal cars drove along the streets, from which goddesses of plenty scattered money and sweetmeats among the croud. There was also built a large house where the populace were treated with meats, liquors, and music; and this entertainment was enjoyed with such eagerness, that
about

about a hundred persons were suffocated in the throng; and with all that, the dancing was continued till six in the morning. The truth is, that those who were within, knew very little of the tragical scenes that passed at the door. The people pressed on so strongly that the guards were unable to keep them off; and some small steps at the entrance being the occasion of several person's stumbling and falling down, they immediately disappeared under the feet of the crowd, and never rose again. In the beginning, the officers of police thought fit to conceal these accidents, not to disturb the public joy; but the number of victims encreasing, violence was thought necessary to disperse the crowd. This still more augmented the

confusion and the sad accidents it was intended to prevent, so that there was no remedy till about midnight, when most part of the people, that filled all the streets and avenues of the place, despairing of having any part of the entertainment, returned home to take consolation in sleep.

The following morning the temple of joy was become a place of sorrow and lamentation. The families and neighbours of the unfortunate victims filled the air with their cries in carrying off the dead bodies. The King was so shocked and grieved at this catastrophe, that he most severely reprimanded the Governor of the capital for not having prevented such accidents;

accidents; but he answered, with much seeming reason, that it was the first time he ever treated the mob, and had no idea of any such consequence; but that he should better know how to take his measures for another time.

The King bestowed a considerable sum of money on the widows and children of the poor that were found among the dead, and so the clamours ceased.

Several institutions for the education of youth, and other charitable purposes, date from the birthday of young Gustavus Adolphus, every body being desirous of manifesting their zeal upon so joyful an occasion. The love of the Swedes for

this Prince encreases every day, in the same measure as his good qualities unfold themselves, and render him more worthy of the great pre-occupation in his favour. He is the very picture of the Queen, and seems to be of a delicate constitution, though a great deal of pains has been taken to render him more robust. When a child, he bathed every day in cold water; his head has never been covered; and though even in the severest weather in winter he makes at least an hour's promenade every day, he never wears any warmer cloaths than in summer, except the addition of a great coat when he goes out into the air. Though he looks somewhat pale and feeble, yet he enjoys a very good health, and has happily gone through
all

all the diseases to which children are commonly exposed.

He had a very healthy nurse, a peasant's wife from Dalecarlia, and a descendant from the honest and brave Andrew Persson, who saved Gustavus Vasa from the murderers that were sent in pursuit of him by the Danes. After the Prince was weaned, she returned home with a handsome present suitable to her state of life, and with the donation of a considerable freehold for herself and her descendants in perpetuity, as a remembrance of the patriotic honesty of their forefather. Thus the present King Gustavus never misses an occasion to shew his

regard for the memory of the great founder of the Gustavian race.

The first years of the Prince were entrusted to the care of the Countess Rosen, a lady generally esteemed for her good understanding and beloved for her sweetness of temper. She had nevertheless continual disputes with the King's physician about the Prince's bathing. The advice of the physician was supported by the King, and the bath in cold water was continued till the Prince was above four years old; but at last he was so thoroughly chilled, that his legs continually remained blue and cold as ice; then the bathing was laid aside, notwithstanding the expostulation of the physician, who persisted in his

his opinion that the cold water could do nothing but good, and that, when cold through bathing, one could recover the warmth by bathing more; but on this occasion the experiment was not thought fit to be made.

I have said before that the birth of this Prince occasioned a rupture between the King and the Queen Dowager, so that she never had an opportunity to see her grandson; but when she fell into the illness that put an end to her life, as soon as the King heard she was in danger, he took his son with him upon a visit to Swartfloe, where the Queen Dowager was then residing; and as soon as she heard the Prince was near, she demanded to see him, received

ceived him in her arms, and gave him her blessing with all the sensibility of a mother.

For the place of Governor to the young Prince, the King's choice fell upon Baron Frederick Sparre, who was accordingly made a Senator, and soon after entered into his function, for which his learning, sobriety of life, and amiable manners, rendered him a very proper person; but what made him still more recommendable was his implicit obedience to the prescriptions of the King, who took the minutest notice of all that belonged to his son's education and way of living. By such a compliance the Governor maintained himself in the King's favour and confidence for several years,

years, until a journey the Prince made into Finland, gave occasion to some discontentment on both sides.

As the Prince was to accompany the King himself, and his Majesty ever chose to have but a small retinue on his journeys in that province, especially to spare the horses of the peasants, the Governor was not appointed to be of the party; at which he perhaps took some offence, and insisted upon it as his right as well as his duty to be with the Prince every where. The King told him that for the present occasion he would himself be in the Governor's place, and hoped he was able as well as entitled to fill it. Baron Sparre, having set his mind upon this journey, protested

protested in the Senate against his exclusion; of which the King being apprized, ordered that the protestation should be cancelled out of the records as having been improperly made: the Governor had neither right nor duty, but by the authority of the King, and so could be dispensed from the exercise of both, whenever his Majesty thought it proper. The Baron being resolved to look upon this exclusion as proceeding from a want of confidence in him, desired to be discharged from his employment about the Prince; which, tho' the King had perhaps already granted in his mind, yet he refused for the present, and prevailed upon Baron Sparre to continue in his trust for some time; and it was not untill a year after that the

King

King conferred it on the Count Gyllen-
 stolpe. From this latter choice it appears
 too clearly, that the King intends to be
 always himself the chief Governor of his
 son's education; for though Count Gyllen-
 stolpe is a nobleman of a worthy and
 respectable character, yet I think he never
 pursued those studies which are essential to
 his new employment.

As to the literary part of the education
 of Prince Gustavus Adolphus, it is totally
 left to the care of Mr. Rosenstein, and
 could never be in better hands. The
 speedy progress the Prince has made, in
 every branch of knowledge suitable to his
 high station in life, is chiefly owing to
 the

the zeal and good method applied to his instruction.

Though Mr Rosenstein is a nephew to the Senator Count Hermanffon and has also many other relations in the higher civil and military employments, yet as he never asked nor had any recommendation by their means, he owes his preferment totally to his own merit. Nor was he forward in producing himself; very few had any knowledge of his talents in the literary line, before he was accidentally obliged to speak in public, by breaking the coat of arms of a gentleman who died without issue. Every body present was highly charmed with the speech; and the Senator Count Hoepken conceived such

an

an idea of his abilities, that he proposed him for the place of Secretary to the Royal Academy of Belles-Letters in Sweden. His literary reputation growing very fast, the universal praise bestowed on his personal character induced the King to fix upon him for the instruction of the Prince, and nobody could have done more honour to his Majesty's choice. He was soon appointed a Counsellor in the King's Chancery, and decorated with the Royal Order of the Polar Star. He is also Secretary of the Swedish Academy, where his eloquence and extent of knowledge have often been the objects of public admiration. It is commonly believed that he will be rewarded with the place of Chancellor of the Court of Sweden, which has been kept

kept vacant since Baron Ramet left it at his entrance into the Senate.

Among the gentlemen appointed for the company and attendance of the Prince, the Colonel Baron Wachtmeister occupied the first place, and filled it with the utmost distinction. But entering into the almost general resentment of the nobility at the imprisonment of Count Fersen and some other members of that order during the last Diet, he begged to be dismissed from his trust, and even gave up his regiment, to keep himself entirely free from all connection with the Court. The King, who was very well satisfied with his service, and the public, who had the greatest esteem for his character, agreed.

agreed in their earnest wishes that he should continue his employment about the Royal Heir. His majesty treated him rather as a friend than as a subject, deferred to give consent to his request in hope that he would change his resolution, but he could not be prevailed upon. The Prince was very sensible of his loss, and upon the specious reasons put in use to prove that the Baron was obliged in honour to resign, and could do no otherwise, the Prince answered with some passion—" I think you would persuade me that I ought also to resign."

The inflexibility on the Baron's side is the more difficult to be accounted for, as he has ever been regarded as very much

K

attached

attached to the King, and is also far from being so rich that the emoluments of his place could be a matter of indifference to him.

Another gentleman about the Prince is Mr. Bonde, of an ancient family, who has produced five Kings of Sweden, and an uninterrupted series of fifteen generations of Senators, untill the present Count Bonde, Senator and Great Marshal of the Court of Sweden. With all that, the fortune of Mr. Bonde was far from being suitable to his birth and personal merit, the former wealth of his family having been dispersed into several collateral branches; but his marriage with the daughter of Baron Hillebrand has in a considerable measure repaired those losses, that
 lady

being reputed one of the first fortunes in the country, though her father was some years ago very near his ruin, and has made no acquisitions afterwards either by inheritance or his own industry. These assertions may seem contradictory, but are nevertheless literally true. With large possessions, but very bad œconomy, Baron Hillebrand was so much in debt that nobody would lend him any more, and he would have been obliged to give up his estate, had not an old reduced officer came to his assistance. This very worthy man, from pure good-nature and disinterested friendship, offered himself to take the management of the estate, settle with the creditors, and furnish the owner the sum that was usually required for his yearly

K 2 expences.

expences. Baron Hillebrand had very little hopes of the success of this enterprize, yet as his creditors acquiesced with the proposals of his friend, he found himself happy to submit; and in a few years all his debts were paid, and the estate so improved in value that great sums could be laid up every year, which money has since been employed in purchasing and building some of the finest houses in the capital. The old officer never would receive any sort of recompence for this service; he has contented himself with the pleasure of having done a good action, and being loved and respected as a father and guardian angel to the family; and such presents as he could not without rudeness refuse to receive, he has by his

will

will disposed of in favour of the children, who at present are no more than two, one son, and the lady of Mr. Bonde.

The Baron Armfelt, one of the First Gentlemen of the King's Bedchamber, is also upon the establishment of the Prince Royal; and it is supposed he is the person who will be intrusted with the more special care of the Prince, after the retreat of Baron Wachtmeister.

Upon repeated solicitations of the University of Upsal, the King has permitted the Prince Royal to accept of the Chancellorship, a place which had also been occupied by his father and grandfather, when they were presumptive heirs to the

throne of Sweden. In order to make the Prince better acquainted with the commonwealth of which he was now elected a chief, the King took him to Upsal, and staid with him there above two months, taking him very often to the public lectures of several Professors whose sciences made any part of his studies. As to the King himself, there were none of the Professors or Masters in the University whose public lessons were not at one time or other honoured with the presence of his Majesty. It was the intention of the King that the Prince should pass a great deal of his time at Upsal, on purpose to bring him acquainted with gentlemen of his own age, over whom he would probably reign, that he might acquire

acquire some knowledge of their character, which might assist him in his choice when he should want to employ them in the service of the kingdom; and although the war and other circumstances have put this scheme aside for the present, it will probably take place at another time.

CHAPTER V.

PRINCE Charles of Sweden, Duke of Sudermania, who entered last year with so much glory upon the public stage of Europe, was from his earliest youth looked upon as a very extraordinary character.

His mother, the late Queen of Sweden, ever claimed the most implicit obedience from her children: but with the most severe treatment, she never could subdue the spirit of Prince Charles, who had, however, the tenderest regard for his father, paying a perfect submission to all
his

his commands. The Queen supposing this difference to arise from want of dutiful affection towards her, took such a dislike to him, that it lasted as long as her life, and that in such a degree that she ascribed to him the occasion of her disagreeable situation in the latter years of her life.

The late King often attempted to appease the anger of the Queen, and told her that a tender treatment on her side would meet with more submission in her son. She once tried the experiment, and the unexpected change affected the Prince to such a degree, that he threw himself at her feet, and begged her to continue in the same sentiments towards him, and
he

he would lose his life to deserve from her all the fondness of a mother. The Queen embraced him, and tears of tenderness on both sides sealed a peace; which nevertheless was not of long duration; the most trifling fault in the Prince being resented with a severity that he could never bear, and so there was a continual discontent between them, and the Queen always expressed displeasure when speaking of him.

It is true the Prince sometimes shewed a vivacity of temper, which was frequently misconstrued for ill nature: as once when for the sake of exercise he was cruising with some gallies, and passed by the custom house, the officers, from a
mistaken

mistaken notion of the extent of their authority, or perhaps from ignorance that the Prince was on board, commanded that the gallies should stop to be searched; and when their request was not complied with, they put out a boat to overtake them; seeing which, the Prince was so incensed that he gave orders to fire on the boat, and would have done it himself had he not been prevented. But with all this vivacity he has an excellent heart, which the following circumstance will prove.

In taking a walk with some gentlemen in the neighbourhood of the King's summer palace, the Prince meeting with an old officer, of a venerable countenance
but

but with manifest signs of poverty about him, deigned to accost him, and enquiring into his circumstances, he found that the officer had served a very long time, and made several campaigns; but as in the Swedish army the promotions go by purchase, and he had never been able to raise the sum required, he had constantly been passed over, and was now suing for a place in the Invalids. The Prince promised to forward his petition; and before he left the old man he made him quite happy by the kind interest he seemed to take in his fate. But the Prince reflecting on the wants to which the poor man would be exposed before he could receive any relief from the grant of his petition, asked one of his gentlemen how
 he

he might contrive to make a present in money to the officer, without shocking his delicacy? The gentleman answered that nothing could be more flattering to the person in question than to receive the present from the hands of his Royal Highness. The Prince then addressed himself to the officer, and pressing on him his purse said he was ashamed that an officer who had bravely served his country should be under such pecuniary embarrassments, while he himself, who had yet done nothing for it, should be able to relieve them.

In his juvenile years Prince Charles was continually at variance with his brothers; but on attaining manly years his friendship

friendship and attachment to the present King have always been unquestionable; which is the more to his honour, as the alterations made by the King in the form of government in Sweden, have left a great deal of discontent among the nobility; and there have been several critical moments of which a less generous and affectionate brother would have taken advantage: but instead of any interested views, he has always behaved in a manner that has gained him the full confidence of the King. At the time of the Revolution, in the beginning of this reign, the King was so certain of his brother's willingness to serve him, that he trusted him with the secret of his scheme, and the command of the troops over the whole

whole country. When Prince Charles went into Scania, with a full authority over the army then assembled in the neighbourhood of Christianstadt, the King sent him the half of a French crown cut in two, and kept the other himself, by means of which the Prince was to be informed of the real intentions of the King, as it was then to accompany the letters: the King having thought this precaution necessary, in case he should be forced by the Senate to sign some orders contrary to his own interest. Both pieces are preserved in the Royal Museum at Drottningholm, as a monument of fraternal concord.

Though the Duke of Sudermania has
ever

ever been destined to command the Swedish fleet, yet he has also manifested his attention to other branches of the military science. He for some time had the South-Scania regiment of cavalry, and has since for several years been Colonel of the Horse Guards, consisting of near two thousand men. Every body allows that the regiment is very much improved under his command. His skill as an Admiral had a very good occasion to exert itself in the battle against the Russian fleet, the last year, as the enemy were considerably superior in strength and number, and were commanded by one of the most experienced sea officers in Europe; and yet the loss was visibly on the side of the Russians, as they had one ship sunk,

one

one taken, and two more having struck, would undoubtedly have been taken, had not the victors been obliged to leave their prizes to come up to the assistance of their Admiral, who in the mean time had been attacked by three of the largest Russian ships of the line. This manœuvre gave the Russians an opportunity to recover their two prizes, and night at length put an end to the battle. The Swedes only lost one vessel, and kept their station till the following morning, whereas the Russians failed off in the night.

During the time that the Admiral's ship was surrounded and attacked on all sides by the enemy, some of the people on board his own ship made a motion to

L strike;

strike: "No," said the Duke, "I had rather be blown up than taken prisoner;" and he actually snatched the match from one of the gunners, and took his station by the magazine, and then asked the Admiral, Count Wrangel, if he thought there was no possibility of saving the ship? "It seems to be very difficult," answered the Admiral, "but we will do our best;" and the firing was continued with the greatest vigor till the other ships came up and rendered the battle more equal. The Russians had a great many killed, their Admiral was dangerously wounded, and his ship was obliged to run out of the line.

In one of those ships which relieved the Swedish Admiral, the commander,
 Count

Count Horn, was killed, together with the Captain, so that there was none but the Lieutenant, a very young man, to command on board the ship; and it was him who made the greatest havock among the enemy. Having observed, with a presence of mind very uncommon upon such occasions, that the Russian Admiral's ship had a slow wavering motion from one side to the other, he waited for the moment when the ship, inclining towards his side, laid the deck open to his fire, which he then employed to such advantage, that it caused the greatest confusion on board the enemy's ships; their rigging was entirely shot overboard, and the ships left floating to the discretion of the waves. Thus the Russian ships engaged with the

Swedish Admiral were obliged to leave him to relieve their own, which perhaps would have been very difficult had not the night come on and interrupted the operations on both sides.

With all that, I am sure the Swedes must have been glad to find that the enemy had withdrawn before the next morning. The Swedish fleet was so ill provided with powder, and so disabled, that they were unfit to renew the engagement; but as the wind was not favourable for an attempt to gain the port of Sweaborg before daylight, and it was probable they would have been pursued by the enemy if they had given them the least suspicion of an intention to get off;

off; there was therefore no safety but in keeping good countenance; and so they did, by putting out lights and firing signal guns all the night, so that the enemy could not but think them firmly resolved to renew the fight; and as the Russians were also in a very bad state, and found their retreat favoured by the wind; they made the best of their way to their nearest port.

Thus the victory, and I am confident the safety of the Swedes, was in a great measure owing to the courage and presence of mind of their brave commander. He carried his fleet into harbour under the canons of Sweaborg, where, for want of ammunition, they were obliged to remain

untill the end of October, when the Duke again went on board and put out into the Baltic; and had but just time to reach the port of Carlscroon before the winter set in.

The Duke would never forgive those who had provided the ships so ill with ammunition, as had the engagement continued an hour longer the whole fleet must have been lost for want of powder. He said he thanked God for having saved him on that occasion, and that he would in future be well satisfied how he was provided before he went on shipboard.

Some people have accused the Duke of misconduct in not taking the seven
Russian

Russian ships he met with under the command of Admiral Dessen, on their refusal of the salute: thus the war would have been begun with a great advantage on the side of the Swedes; or if the King should not have had any warlike intentions, it might at least have furnished him with the opportunity of paying a polite compliment to the Empress in restoring the ships. To be sure Admiral Dessen thought himself very happy to get off by a courtesy, and to return the favour, he took care of all the Swedish vessels which ventured into the Baltic, during the whole summer, and he likewise attempted to make a descent on the coast, though it was far from being successful.

But as to the Duke's neglecting such a favourable occasion, it cannot otherwise be accounted for than that he must have had positive orders not to commit hostilities: and such is in common the character of the Swedes, that there is more plain dealing than politics in their conduct. Had the King of Sweden been quiet till the great Russian fleet had sailed off to its destination in the Mediterranean, he would have been left perfect master of the Baltic, and could easily have made a descent on the coast of Livonia, which certainly would have proved more advantageous and decisive than the most successful efforts of skill and courage among the barren defiles of Finland. The Russians would have been the more surprised,

as they actually had so poor an idea of the power of Sweden, that after hostilities were begun the Empress did not think it any hinderance at all in her favorite scheme of sending a fleet against the Turks. I am credibly informed that her orders to Admiral Greigh were first to destroy the Swedish fleet, and then to pursue his way to the Archipelago.

It must also be allowed that the Swedes had not a much better opinion of the maritime power of Russia; most part of the Russian ships being built of fir, instead of oak, the Swedes did not think them fit to appear in a line of battle, against their fleet, which, it must be allowed, consists of very good ships. But the number and
 plentiful

plentiful ~~manning~~ and ammunitioning, of the Russian ships, made up for the quality of the wood, and the King of Sweden could not fail of having good informations from Petersburg, where he had a very skilfull and attentive minister. I should therefore be very apt to conclude, that the King of Sweden had no intention of open hostilities, as he did neither watch for a proper opportunity to begin then, or made any use of the advantages fortune had thrown into his way.

As I may possibly have no occasion to return upon the subject of the Swedish Minister at St. Petersburg, we shall take the present opportunity of giving some
principal

principal and interesting anecdotes of his character.

Baron Nobken was formerly an officer in the foot guards, but his advancement there going on too slowly for his wishes, he left the military career, and gave himself entirely up to the study of politics. He now spoke of nothing but what had some relation to the interests of his King and country, the conduct of ministers, and the antiquity and descent of his own family, as he certainly was of a very ancient family in Germany, though some people disbelieved the truth of it in Sweden, before he got the cross of the Teutonic Order, which requires a great number of noble and illustrious ancestors. After his
return

return from his travels he very assiduously paid his respects to the Countess Fersen, and by the powerful interest of that family he soon got a preferment agreeable to his wishes, and went to the Court of St. Petersburg as Minister Plenipotentiary, a place which his father had formerly occupied with the greatest distinction, and wherein the son has ever acted with credit to a family, in which genius, and political talents, have almost been hereditary.

To compleat the good fortune of Baron Nobken, he met with a charming young lady, who loved him well enough to make the sacrifice of half her inheritance, to marry him, rather than a Russian nobleman. But notwithstanding that the will of her grandmother

mother deprived her of her inheritance, for having married a foreigner, her brothers have had the generosity to re-establish her in her full right. At the beginning of the war she left her country to accompany her husband to Sweden, where she had already acquired many friends and admirers in a former visit paid to that Court. The Duchess of Sudermania honoured her with a particular friendship.

That very amiable Princess, a niece to the late King of Sweden, had by that consideration, as well as in respect to her charming qualities, the preference in the Duke's own choice, when he was prevailed upon to marry, in order to give an heir to the throne of Sweden. The
hopes

hopes of this interesting event soon took place when her first Lady of the Bed Chamber solemnly declared that the young Princess was in a state of matrimonial blessing. The Lady of the Bed Chamber had a very fine present given her upon the occasion, and in consequence thought herself obliged to keep up the assertion, though she had afterwards very good reasons for disbelieving it. The jest was carried on as far as possible, and the cannons kept ready to be discharged upon the occasion of her happy delivery, but after a long empty expectation, the midwife at last declared that there was no such case at all, which put the King as well as the Duke very much out of humour. The Duchess excused herself with

with her ignorance, as having never been in the case before; but as there was nothing lost, said she, but a short space of time, matters could easily be repaired. With all their gravity upon the occasion, they could not help laughing at her ingenuofness; and all that she wanted was to play away their anger entirely, and resume her usual place in their affection; but as to the promised reparation, she has not fulfilled her word.

A lady in her Court, who now has the first place in her confidence, is the Countess Piper, youngest daughter of Count Axel Fersen, a lady of uncommon beauty, and of very prudent conduct. The King's brother, Prince Frederick, Duke of Ostrogothia,

gothia, was very much her admirer, and would have married her if he had not been prevented by persons who thought the power and influence of her family already great enough, without the addition that would certainly have risen from such an alliance.

Among the Maids of Honour is the only daughter of Count Gyllenstolpe. She has, without her intention or knowledge deprived her father of all that remained to him of a very considerable estate he inherited from his ancestors. His mother in law, the late Baronefs de Geer, had at several times supplied him with money to a considerable amount; after her death it was found in her will that this money should

should be paid to her grand-daughter, the young lady in question; and in consequence the trustees would have the money put into their hands, which her father could not afford without parting with almost all he was worth, and his daughter not being of age, she could not hinder it.

The beauty of this young lady will be thought very remarkable from the strong impression it made upon a Chinese merchant who was lately in Sweden, and from the singularity of such a visit was very much taken notice of at Court. The first time he was admitted into the presence of the Dukes, there were a great number of charming ladies in the room, but

M he

he immediately distinguished Lady Charlotte Gyllenstolpe, and with great gravity asked his interpreter how much was to be paid for such a woman, and seriously declared he would purchase her for his wife, if the conditions were in his power.

The Court of the Dukes was always remarkable for handsome Maids of Honour. One of its greatest ornaments was formerly Miss Koskull, now Countess Brahe. She and her sister, the Countess Levenhaupt are, perhaps, the most distinguished beauties in Sweden. The Countess Brahe, though of a shorter stature, and somewhat inclining to fat, is remarkably well made; her features are of the nicest proportion, with large blue eyes, and a very
fine

fine complexion. With all that, there is such a sweetness and modesty in her looks and manners, that even her own sex cannot help rendering her justice; which is not always the case with her sister, whose more sprightly and seducing manner, taller shape, and face of the most perfect Grecian beauty, have often alarmed other ladies, and consequently they cannot so easily forgive her.

Though the Duke of Sudermania allows himself great liberties with the sex, yet to his honour it must be said, that he ever respected the ladies within his own Court, and treats them, with the disinterested friendship of a brother; neither has he given himself the trouble of court-

ing any lady of quality, since his ferious passion already mentioned; but a considerable number of a lower class have had the honour to be the objects of his amusement: among those there are hardly more than two worth mentioning: Miss Eckerman and Miss Slottberg.

The former, an orphan of a respectable family, was by want reduced to seek her fortune upon the stage; and having had a good education, she made a quick progress, and was taken notice of by the King, who has ever been very zealous for the national stage. She was of course charged with the principal part in every play of his Majesty's composition, and was looked upon as an actress of consequence.

As

As she was also a very handsome figure, she could not fail attracting the attention of the Duke, who thought very little ceremony necessary with a woman in that station; but he met with a treatment very unusual from one of her class to a Prince; and when he would not be contradicted, she made her complaint to the King, and declared she would never set her foot on the stage any more, if she was not protected from what she called the insolent behaviour of his Royal Highness towards her. I do not know whether she was in earnest, but her unwillingness to conform to his wishes rendered the Duke more eager in his pursuit, and by changing the method of attack he at last succeeded, and she was for some time publicly kept by him: but when he

was to be invested with the dignity of Grand Master among the Free Mafons, the public keeping of a mistress would not agree with the sanctity of such an office, and therefore, in a tender epistle, he took his leave and saw her no more. She was now really in love with him, or at least pretended to be so; and played her part so well by exclaiming, weeping, and falling into convulsive fits, that it moved the pity of the generous order who had been the cause of her loss, and she had a handsome pension settled upon her for life, which, as they understood she was continually in convulsions, could not be supposed to be long a charge upon their fraternity. But however she is now perfectly well; and though upon the whole

she

she leads a very decent life, it is far from being void of consolation and regard from the male sex.

I know not whether the Duke got a dispensation afterwards, but sure it is that Miss Eckerman was soon succeeded by Miss Slotberg, one of the dancing nymphs of the Opera. She was a very good dancer; but as soon as she was honoured with the visits of his Royal Highness, she thought herself above her profession, and almost gave herself the airs of a princess. To carry a decency in the eyes of the world, she was to marry a poor gentleman, who, being promoted by the interest of the Duke, would give his wife a rank more worthy of her Royal lover. But

all these fair dreams vanished in a moment: the Duke having some suspicion that the future husband anticipated his rights, entirely left him the place, and Miss Slottberg soon found herself obliged to return to her former condition.

A young French actress was the next who fixed the attention of the Duke: but here he met with virtue itself, and nothing but a large sum of money could overcome the scruples of the fair one; and that would not have done neither, she assured him, if she had not been anxious to relieve the distress of her father, who was in prison for debt in France. However it was, this girl became a victim to her modesty, real or affected: avoid-
ing

ing to meet the Duchefs, who once happened to be in her way, ſhe in great haſte turned about to make her eſcape, but by a falſe ſtep ſhe fell and broke her neck.

The Duke was much afflicted at her death; and to divert his ſorrow he again paid ſome viſits to Miſs Slottberg: but the place was now occupied by a handſome young gentleman in her neighbourhood, whom the Duke happened to meet in her apartment, and asked her what ſort of connexion ſhe had with him? She affirmed him ſhe had none, and was very ſorry that ſhe could not get rid of his viſits. “To do that I will adviſe you,” replied the Duke: “ſit down and write
a letter

a letter to his father, and desire him to order his son not to trouble you any more with his disagreeable visits." As she was very desirous of fixing the Duke again, she dared not refuse, and the letter was sent immediately; but I am told that she excused herself in another letter to the son, and for a reparation permitted him to see her at very late hours. His father had some notice of these night gallantries, and once surpris'd him as he was going out; but he had the presence of mind to counterfeit a person walking in his sleep, so that his father, who was very much alarmed at the accidents which might happen to a person in that state, ordered a servant to watch him every night. This observer soon became a confidant, and
the

the intrigue was carried on without interruption. I don't know if the Duke suspected her fidelity, but he soon left her again for a considerable time, during which she had a child by Count Poffe; but that accident has not prejudiced her in the Duke's opinion; he has lately reclaimed his former rights, and Miss Slottberg has solemnly declared her resolution to behave with the most scrupulous fidelity to her illustrious lover.

From these instances it appears, that though Prince Charles of Sweden is said to bear a great resemblance to Charles XII. in his features, he is far from being of his disposition with respect to the fair sex.

sex. But in the field he is likely to resemble him more. The King intended to entrust him with the command in Finland in the present campaign, but all the officers of the fleet, highly alarmed at the loss of such a commander, presented their humble request that he would not abandon them. Thus the Duke has obtained leave of the King to return to his former station, and it is supposed that the King will be himself at the head of the army against the Russians, as the Danes give no apprehensions of any hostilities from their side: but if the Danes should again attack Sweden, it is probable the King would leave the army in Finland, and hasten to the defence of his native country;

country; but it is to be supposed that the Danes know better their own interest than to lend their assistance in pulling down the only barrier between themselves and Russia.

C H A P.

C H A P T E R VI.

PRINCE Frederick, Duke of Ostrogothia, second brother to the King of Sweden, is commonly allowed to be a very handsome figure. The most polite behaviour, and every indication of a good character, gained him early the affection of most who saw him.

His mother was always very partial to him, on account of his great resemblance to his father and dutiful attachment towards her. Being the youngest of the Royal sons, and of a less active genius than the other two, he took scarcely any
share

share in public business, and had therefore more time to spend in his mother's company. The preference he had in her affection was such, that in her will he and his sister were made her sole heirs.

His figure made him early a favourite with the fair sex, and he was far from being insensible to their charms. I have already mentioned that he paid his addresses to the daughter of Count Axel Fersen, with an intention to marry her. The prudent conduct of this lady and her parents upon the occasion, made her come off with her reputation safe; but another equally charming young lady, the eldest daughter of the late Senator Count Wrangel,

Wrangel, was less happy in that respect. As the King had not refused the Duke his permission to marry her, but only deferred his formal consent to another year, because of the expences required for the ceremony, the future bride received her lover with the consent of her mother, and the Duke thought so little discretion necessary, that he was seen looking out at her windows at all hours of the day, and followed her every where as her shadow. But his flame, like the sun, having reached its highest orbit, was soon observed to abate by degrees, and before the end of the time requested by the King, the Duke had changed his mind, and returned to one of his former subordinate amours. The poor disconsolate lady afterwards married a
 young

young officer ; and it was no secret that the Prince charged himself with the expences of her marriage.

The object who succeeded her in the Duke's affection, and by a long intimacy had acquired a former right, was Miss Hagman, perhaps the most beautiful woman among her equals in Sweden. I say among her equals in regard to her origin and station of life, for as to her qualities she has very few her equals, perhaps none, in that country. Having in her first youth been placed as a servant in the house of the Baroness Manderstroem, she was taken notice of by a young tradesman who had some business in the family ; he immediately proposed to marry her,

N

and

and took her out of service to put her to a boarding school for a short time; but he died before she had made any considerable progress, and left nothing for her support. Being thus obliged to provide for herself, and unwilling to return to her former state, she procured an engagement at the Opera, where her figure, and some little abilities as a dancer, were a sufficient recommendation. At her first appearance on the stage, she was remarked by the Duke, who soon made her proposals which she had not resolution enough to refuse. The Prince soon discovered qualities in her mind which pleased him so much, that he could not rest without her company; he therefore lodged her in his own apartments in the

King's

King's palace, made her preside at his table, and treated her in every respect with the most flattering distinction. She now found herself in a line of life very different from her first setting out, and to remedy the want of a more liberal education she employed most of her leisure hours in reading. In a short time she had learned the French language so far that she could venture to speak it, and was soon found to be no stranger to any sort of knowledge required in the company she now lived in. Her manners were so modest and agreeable, that even the Queen Dowager herself, with all her severity, could not help being pleased with her, upon a visit she paid to her son at his country house, where

the Prince presented Miss Hagman as his housekeeper; and the Queen also feigned to be perfectly ignorant of any other relation between them.

In the beginning of his courtship with the daughter of the Countess Wrangel, the Duke was obliged to part with Miss Hagman, and it was generally thought he did it with very little regard to delicacy. She was at first extremely affected by this unexpected loss; but she soon bore her fate with resignation, and was cured of her attachment to him when he returned repentant at her feet. She made no secret of the change in her affections; she told him plainly that all she should be capable of in future was
friendship

friendship and gratitude. The Duke resolved to content himself with these sentiments, which he has done his best to deserve, having ever since remained perfectly constant. He has also made her a present of a fine estate in the country, and would have accompanied it with the title and rank of a Countess, had not the King deferred granting that honour till she should have a son; which event has not yet taken place.

The Duke leads, at present, a very retired life; and though he is reputed to be a very skilfull General, it is thought he will not join the army during the present campaign; having been very much disgusted with the disobedience of the officers last

year, those of his own regiment being of the number. He was also much displeased when he commanded the Swedish gallies, during the engagement between the Russian and Swedish fleets off Houghland. The battle began almost within sight of the gallies, and all the officers begged as a favour that they might sail to the assistance of the fleet. Though the Duke was very willing to aid his brother, yet he did not think fit to venture without taking the judgment of a council of war; and there a contrary opinion prevailed, upon the representations of one member that it was not prudent to hazard all the naval resources of the kingdom upon a single action; that if the Swedish fleet had the victory on her side,

the

the assistance of the gallies would be superfluous; and, if beaten, it would only involve them in the same disaster. Though this reasoning was pretty specious, it was afterwards highly condemned. The gallies would certainly have been of great use to secure and carry off the prizes, and have rendered the advantage of the Swedes more decisive. It was also the general opinion that the Duke should have ventured the step in spite of all opinions to the contrary; because, at all events, his good intentions would have pleaded his excuse, and his rank put him above all responsibility. Whether these remonstrances were just or not, they put the Duke so much out of humour, that he gave up the command, and soon after returned to

his country house at Tullgarn, where he spends his time in the society of his Chamberlain and constant companion, Mr. Carlsson, and some few visitors. He now seldom stirs from home, unless upon a visit to his sister, the Princess Royal of Sweden, with whom he always lived in the most tender friendship.

This Princess, only daughter of the late King and Queen, has been almost a victim to filial duty. Upon the death of her father, her mother was for several weeks in a state of sorrow little short of despair; and would not admit of any consolation unless the Princess would promise never to leave her; which engagement she took, and has faithfully kept her word. Such
was

was the fondness of her mother for her, that when the Princess was invited to any entertainment at the King's Court, the Queen would sometimes stay up all the night, waiting for the return of her beloved daughter. Though the Queen Dowager never attended to œconomy in her own affairs, yet she was a very careful treasurer for the Princess, and left her a great sum of money, which she had saved out of the Princess's yearly income; which was seldom touched, as she was commonly provided with all she wanted from the Queen Dowager's private purse.

Besides her allowance from the Crown of Sweden, she has also a considerable
revenue

revenue from the Abbey of Qwedlinburg in Germany; and though, since the death of her mother, she keeps a very genteel Court, yet she has never any year spent her whole income. She has a sensible and generous heart; but she has also a great regard to œconomy; in which disposition she is also very well seconded by the Governess of her Court, the Countess Delagardie; who, having spent a great fortune of her own, is the more able to give lectures on the value of money.

The Princess, in her early youth, was a most elegant figure. There is a picture of her by Mr. Krafft, which everybody will think worthy a place in a gallery

lery of beauties; though that painter never had the character of flattering in his portraits, and is therefore very seldom applied to by ladies. As she has since grown more lusty, her features have also lost somewhat of their delicacy; but they have still the same expressions of former beauty. She has very much patronized the family of the late Count Rudensthoeld; that worthy Senator, who when deprived by the Russian faction of his place in the Senate and of his whole income, had yet the greatness of mind to refuse the offer of a pension from the late King of Prussia, thinking it below a person who had filled such a place, to lay under a pecuniary obligation to a foreign Court, though he was greatly in
want

want of it. His eldest son is Chamberlain to the Princess, and two of his daughters have been brought up in her Court, and provided for according to their birth. The eldest is married to Baron Wennestedt, a nobleman of good fortune and character. The other has also very eligible proposals made her. They are both of them charming young ladies, and will prove excellent wives if they resemble their mother.

That lady was of the illustrious family of Bielke, in Sweden. Her mother, who was a descendant of the renowned General Torstenson, was one of the proudest women in the kingdom, and would never consent to the marriage of her daughter with

with Count Rudenshoeld, because he was not of an equally illustrious birth. But the young lady, having once given her promise, kept faithfully to her engagement, notwithstanding an absence of many years, during the Count's tour-into England and France, and his embassy to the Court of Prussia; and she married him after the death of her mother. Though they were then both of them much advanced in years, they had a numerous family, to whom she was a very fond mother; and though frequently in narrow circumstances, yet she was ever content and chearfull; making it the chief object of her care to render her husband happy, and to support his spirits under the vicissitudes of fortune. Her love for him

was

was founded upon the highest regard for his qualities. He was esteemed a good poet, and had the most exquisite taste on all matters of literature. His knowledge in history was very extensive, and he was a perfect master of the Greek and Latin, as well as of the principal languages in Europe. He was therefore very fit for the Chancellorship of the University of Upsal, in which he was a successor to the present King; and as an extraordinary instance of the high value the University put upon Count Rudershoeld, he was continued in that office, even after he had taken his final leave of the Senate; of which there never was an instance before.

The

The Princess is remarkably constant in her attachments. The Countess Silverparre, formerly her Maid of Honour, lives with her whole family in the Palace of her Royal Highness, and has never been suffered to leave her. There is also one Miss Forberg, who has been brought up in her Court, and though a very charming and deserving young woman, yet some people think, that the favour and friendship bestowed upon her is rather too great and conspicuous, for a person of her pretended common birth; and the sagacious have lost themselves in conjectures upon the subject. But the truth is perhaps no other, than that the Princess is not of the opinion of those among her equals who think personal merit below their notice,

if

if it is not heightened by a noble origin and other gifts of fortune. That way of thinking, added to her constancy in affection, and attachment to habitude, will sufficiently account for the favour of Miss Forsberg; the more, as from one or other of the same motives, she has about her Court most part of those who were formerly in the service of her mother.

Mr. Silversparre, one of the Chamberlains to the Princess, was also formerly in the Court of the late Queen. He is a gentleman of an estimable character, and his knowledge in several branches belonging to the œconomy of a Court is of great use to the Princess. He is also very well acquainted with literature, and a great lover

lover of music, wherein he has a good skill himself.

The General Baron Zoege, Master of the Queen's Horse, was formerly Ambassador to the Court of Prussia, and lately appointed one of the Regency during the King's absence. • He is a nobleman of that easy politeness and insinuating manners, which distinguishes a perfect courtier. He has also a very happy presence of mind. Passing once the feast of Epiphany with the Royal Family, soon after his return from his embassy, and every one present having received a share of the accustomed cake, he happened to have the bean, and was declared King. In

O

distri-

(194)

distributing the employments in his new Court, he appointed the King to be his Treasurer for paying his debts at Berlin.

C H A P-

CHAPTER VII.

WHEN King Gustavus ascended the throne, the kingdom was divided by two raging parties, who had alternately shaken the throne of his father. The weaker always espoused the public cause, while the stronger impudently forwarded its own particular interest; preying upon the revenues of the Crown and the credit of the national bank, disposing of all places of authority or profit in favour of themselves, and continually encroaching upon the prerogatives of the Royal power. The faction which prevailed at the Diet of 1772, had gone so far as to prescribe

to King Adolphus the quantity of wine he should be allowed for his table, and denied him the choice of his own private chaplain. No wonder then if the Court favoured the opposite party; and King Gustavus had evidently discovered his disposition in that respect, when, some years before he acted in the abdication affair, which put the Senators under the necessity of convoking a Diet, that overturned all their measures: he was in consequence so little trusted by that party, who had again worked themselves into power, that several months of the Diet were spent before they had settled the form of the oath which he was to take on his coronation, although it was already fixed by the established laws of the country.

try. But the Diet had assumed the authority of canvassing and amending those laws at pleasure, and therefore naturally determined, that the King should take such oath as might most gratify their ambition.

The King so little opposed any of these alterations, that when the Act was presented to him with great solemnity, he signed it without reading it; saying only, that as he hoped it was calculated for the good of his country, his heart had already taken the oath to do every thing to that purpose.

While the common class of politicians were admiring in the young Sovereign a docility which had been thought rather

foreign to his character, others more sagacious harboured already some suspicions that he would not think himself bound by what he had signed without a knowledge of its contents. The alarm spread very quickly; and made the Diet so attentive to prevent every attempt towards a change in the form of government, that the regiment of foot guards was not permitted to assemble for the ordinary exercises, nor even to parade on solemn occasions. There were also great apprehensions from an association of officers, who assembled once or twice every week to perform the military evolutions under the inspection of General Ramsay, as that officer was much attached to the King, and his Majesty very often honoured their
 exercises

exercifes with his prefence. It was fup-
 pofed that the King intended, by their
 affiftance to take poffeffion of the arfe-
 nal and other military ftore; and fome
 people pretended to be informed that
 even the day was fixed for the execution
 of the fcheme; but as it happened that
 very day, that the young Baron Stiern-
 cronæ fell from his horfe during the ex-
 ercife and broke his neck, fuch an ac-
 cident was looked upon as a bad omen,
 and the execution of the fcheme was
 accordingly put off for fome time.

All thefe apprehenfions could not awe
 the prevailing party into reafonable mea-
 fures. The fame fpirit that had excited
 the perfecutions of 1766, rofe again; and

all those who were supposed to have been in the secret of the abdication made by King Adolphus in 1768, were devoted to public punishment. Two English gentlemen, (Mr. Jennings and Mr. Finlay,) proprietors of large shares in the Swedish iron works, being under suspicions of having assisted the Court party with money, were threatened with the same fate as *Kierman*, *Lefebure* and others had undergone six years before. Thus vengeance on one side, and resentment on the other, blew up the party rage to the utmost degree. The King offered himself as a mediator, and had several conferences with the leaders of both parties: but those in power suspecting him of a design to lure them of their advantages in order to
 save

save his friends, no terms could be agreed upon; and the first step taken was to dismiss the Senate, and scrape together a new one, made up of those who had not left the ruling faction from a just dislike of a conduct which could produce nothing but a more violent hatred and a continual struggle for power and vengeance. The other prosecutions were now going on, and many of the nobility were under the greatest apprehensions from the popular fury, as the major part of that body had dissented from the proceedings of the Commons at this Diet, which had already created an animosity independent of the party interest; and they thought it safer to put themselves under the protection of the King.

The

The point was discussed in several secret meetings; and the result of those conferences was, that the Royal prerogatives should be extended so far as was necessary to check the enterprizes of a raging party. It would have been proper indeed to have restrained the Monarch's authority within certain bounds; but if no measures could be kept with the other party, they preferred rather to deliver up all their rights to the King, whatever might be the consequence, than to fall into the hands of their revengeful fellow citizens.

Count Axel Fersen, who had ever been a zealous defender of the old constitution, would not take an active part in measures

fures that might prove fatal to the liberty of his country: he therefore left the capital; and in taking leave of the Affembly, he told them that no reasonable man, nor any friend of the public welfare, could agree to their proceedings: that before he should see them again, matters might be in a very different state; but whatever should be the event, they had none to accuse but themselves.

Count Hermanffon, whose political writings had opened him the way into the Senate of the Kingdom, was now desired to plan out a new form of government. Count Charles Scheffer, whose knowledge and abilities could only be equalled by the goodness of his heart and his patriotic

otic zeal, communicated to his Royal Master another plan for the same purpose; and the King himself had made a third sketch; so that there was now no want of constitutional laws, the only difficulty was to carry them into execution.

As to the plan of operations for bringing on that great work, the King had very few confidants, except Count Scheffer and Count Salza. The several agents employed in the business knew no more of the secret, than just what was necessary for their part in the operations, which was to begin with a sort of mock insurrection in two of the remotest parts of the kingdom, in order to draw off the attention from the true place of action.

Though

Though the abuses in the old form of government were so obvious, that the nation in general wished for a change, yet such is the respect of the Swedes for an oath, that very few would, even to make their fortunes, enter into a plot against the established constitution. Colonel Sprengporten and Captain Hellechius were the only officers of note, who could be prevailed upon to take an active part in the affair.

Hellechius, now General Gustaffhoeld, commanded as town-major in Christianstadt, a fortified seaport in the province of Schone. By treating the officers of the garrison in a very splendid and friendly manner, he soon gained their affection, and

and brought them into his measures. They used the most abusive language against the Members of the Diet, and expressed publicly their sentiments in favour of the King's having a more extensive power. As there was but one mind upon the subject among the people, the public talk became so general as to alarm the Diet, and Baron Rudbeck, Governor of the capital, and one of the principal leaders in the party, was invested with full authority to make enquiry into the origin of these troubles, and to use such means as he thought necessary to stop their progress.

During his absence, the General Baron Pechlin was appointed chief commander
in

in the capital; in which employment he acted with such vigilance, that it would have been impossible to have effected the intended revolution without his compliance; for which reason the Court party did all in their power to gain him; but he was too strongly attached to the ancient form of government, both by his ambition and his interest, to be trusted with a secret of that nature. Fortunately for the cause, Baron Rudbeck came back and resumed the functions of his place before the execution of the scheme; for though he could not be bribed, he could more easily be outwitted than the other.

The cause of Baron Rudbeck's speedy return was his having been refused entrance

trance into Christianstadt, where Captain Hellechius had already issued out a manifesto against the unlawful oppression exercised by the Diet. The General, astonished at this news, made haste back to Stockholm, to consult on what should be done. It was determined that they should endeavour to discover if the King had any concern in the business; and if there appeared reason to apprehend that he had, then they should by some means get possession of his person, and prevent all correspondence between him and the insurgents untill they were subdued, when their punishment would terrify others from attempting the like designs.

They had soon an opportunity of attempting

tempting a knowledge of the King's sentiments. The Duke of Hefsenstein, and the Senator Count Ribbing, being invited to sup with their Majesties, they fell accidentally upon the general topic of conversation for the time, the insurrection at Christianstadt. The Duke gave a very circumstantial narrative of Baron Rudbeck's visit to that place, and when the King, by way of saying something, repeated several times that it was very singular, Count Ribbing stared him in the face, and said, "What is the most singular of all is, that the officer on duty at the gate told Baron Rudbeck that it was done by your Majesty's orders." "You are mistaken," answered the King, with a wonderful presence of mind; "I have myself

P heard

heard Baron Rudbeck give his report to the Senate, and he said it was the sentinel who told him so, and not the officer, who certainly must have been better informed.

The day after, the King sent for General Rudbeck in the afternoon, and had a long conversation with him on the subject; and during the whole time, the King was very busy in a design for embroidery which he had promised to one of the ladies. Baron Rudbeck did not forget to relate that circumstance at the political club, and with a sagacious look observed, "That the personage was not dangerous at all."

It

It was for their greater security in carrying on their own measures, that the leaders of the Diet ordered the garrison to be reinforced with two neighbouring regiments, *Sudermania* and *Uplandia*: the latter was within two Swedish leagues of Stockholm on the day the Revolution took place.

If those regiments had entered the capital, it would certainly have occasioned great bloodshed between them and the guards, and also among the citizens, who had taken up arms for the purpose of maintaining good order in the city, and were most of them strongly in the King's interest. The King was at a loss what to do, because he waited for Colonel

Sprengporten's return from Finlandia, with some troops, whose arrival was intended to be the signal for the enterprize. It was by the entreaties of General Salza, that the King was prevailed upon to venture the step, without any other support than his own courage and the love of his subjects.

The King at length agreed to make the attempt on the following day. The evening preceding, his Majesty had invited a great number of the first nobility to see the rehearsal of *Thetis and Peleus*, the first opera given in the Swedish language. He spoke of nothing but theatricals, and was extremely chearful. Among those invited to sup with their Majesties, was the Lady of Baron Pechlin. There was a
party

party at cards, in which she was the loser: the King, who had the best of the game, took her Bank-note and put it into his pocket, saying he would never part with it, but keep it as a remembrance. He at the same time wished he might have something at hand worthy her acceptance, as a remembrance of him. She assured him no such thing was necessary to engrave his Majesty's gracious expressions in a most grateful mind. "I'll soon see how you remember me," answered the King, and broke off the conversation for that time. But two years after, the King put her in mind of their conversation, and presented her with the cockade from his own hat for her son, to whom the King gave a standard in the South-Scania re-

giment, though he was only nine years old.

The night which preceded the memorable nineteenth of August 1772, was employed by the King in writing letters ; among which was one to the Duke of Sutherland, acquainting him with the reasons that made the step necessary without delay. The King added, that though he had nothing to rely on but his own person and the love of his subjects, he hoped that heaven would bless him with success for the sake of his country : but, if he should happen to fall a victim to his good intentions, he conjured his brother never to think of revenging his death upon the Swedes, for he was sure he should never
perish.

perish by the hand of any of his countrymen. After having finished the letters, the King went out to visit the watches, as he had done several nights before; and employed very happily those seducing manners which gain him the hearts of all. At the Admiralty watch, his countenance had nearly betrayed him; as soon as he was entered into the inner room, some officious person shut the door with such violence, that the lock was disordered and could by no means be opened again. The King gave a penetrating look at the officer, one Captain Hanfson, who, roused with indignation at the thought of being suspected by his sovereign, gave the door such a shake that it burst into pieces. The King, by another look, made

him reparation; and returning from thence to the palace, he went to bed.

The next morning the King rose at his usual hour. He signified his intention to take an airing on horseback, as very usual with him, and for that purpose he sent for his equerry, now Grand Master of the Horse, Count Lewenhaupt. It is very probable that his Majesty admitted him into the confidence, that he might have a greater number of horses ready than usual.

The Senate usually assembled at ten in the morning; and half an hour after, as the new parade of the guards marched through the court of the Palace, the King went
down

down in a hurry, followed by some few gentlemen on whom he could depend, caused the gates to be shut, and in a very pathetic speech addressed himself to the officers and foldiers, requesting their assistance to save his country; protesting in the mean time that he never desired an unlimited power, but only so much as was necessary to re-establish order and to give vigor to the laws. He also promised ample rewards to those who proved willing to associate with him in that noble enterprize. The foldiers answered with a cry of approbation, and the King made them instantly take a short oath, in which the officers also joined. The first use the King made of his new authority, was to plant a guard at the entrance of the Senate,

Senate, with orders that nobody should be permitted to go out. The gates were then opened, and the King went down to the corps de guard, caused the officers to be assembled, and told them what was done; presuming so far on their attachment to his person and to the welfare of their country, that they would join with him and his noble-spirited fellow citizens, who had already devoted themselves to the support of so good a cause. All of them consented immediately, except Baron Cederstroem, who presented his sword to the King, and surrendered himself a prisoner. The oath was taken as before; and the King seeing himself at the head of between three and four hundred men; thought that force sufficient to take possession

session of the arsenal by surprise; he therefore sent for his horses, and went on without loss of time. Baron Rudbeck having already caught the alarm, went to the King's stables with intent to stop the horses; and meeting them in the gate, he bade Count Lewenhaupt proceed at his peril. The Count replied, that he had no orders to take from the Governor of the city, and ordered Baron Rudbeck to keep himself out of the way, lest he should receive some hurt from the horses. Baron Rudbeck was obliged to retire, lamenting that he was not at the head of the Uplandia regiment, which he had formerly commanded. He went directly to the Committee of the Diet, who were then assembled, and told them what

was

was doing; and ordered the Secretary, Mr. Elers, to enter in the records what he would dictate; but the Secretary gravely closed the book, telling the Baron that he supposed further scribbling would be of no use; and the rest of the company agreeing with him in opinion, the Committee separated, and every one consulted his own safety.

The King went directly to the place of artillery, where the guard having taken the oath without the least difficulty, he sent from thence detachments with field pieces to all the gates of the capital, with orders to let nobody pass, without a passport signed by the King's own hand.

The

'The rest' of the King's guards assembled and took the oath as fast as possible; and the principal leaders of the Diet were summoned to wait on the King at the artillery house. Several of them took the oath immediately; but the Duke of Heffenstein, who was said to be designed for the Regency, if the party had succeeded in their plot for seizing on the King's person, refused to take the oath: he was nevertheless set at liberty, after having given his parole not to act in any manner against the King.

Baron Rudbeck, and several other persons of note, were taken into custody. The King had the attention to send persons to their wives and families, that they

they might be under no apprehensions. He also sent to the lady of Baron Pechlin, to desire her not to be alarmed, when he should pass by her house to take possession of the Admiralty guard. But the Baron himself was not to be found. After having made a proposal to the Duke of Hessenstein to secure the Admiralty island by pulling up the drawbridge, and thus to form a place of safety for their friends, till they could make terms with the King; upon the Duke's refusing to enter into any such measures, he went to join his regiment, and some other troops of which he was appointed commander, for the purpose of marching against Christianstadt. He had already had the orders signed by the King two days before; but
some

some delay in the money matters had prevented his setting out sooner.

The King being very uneasy at the loss of Baron Pechlin, a young adventurer of the family of Hierta offered himself to fetch him back again; he overtook him at a posthouse about twelve miles from the capital, and notified to him his Majesty's orders. The General desired to see the orders; and upon the answer that they were only verbal, the General replied that he had written orders, and signed by the King in due form, which orders enjoined him to go to his regiment; and thus he could not venture to do any thing contrary to those orders, unless Mr. Hierta would certify, in the
presence

presence of the postmaster and one witness more, that the King had sent him on purpose to revoke the orders, and that he would be responsible for the consequences. To that Mr. Hierta would not agree, fearing perhaps that matters would yet take a turn which might expose his safety: he rather chose to make use of force, and informed the General that such was his power. Baron Pechlin, with his usual coolness, told him then to make haste, for as the horses were ready he did not intend to wait any longer; and seeing him wavering in his resolution, the General took him by the hand, and said to him, with a look of pity, "Adieu my poor Hierta; another time be less presumptuous;" and so he mounted his
post

post chaise and drove off. Mr. Hierta, to take his revenge, represented the General's behaviour in a very different light, and made the King almost believe that Baron Pechlin wanted to raise the whole country against him; and in consequence he wrote to the Duke of Ostrogothia that he should assure himself of the General's person at any rate.

A gentleman of the strictest honour, Captain Stalhammar, who was very much attached to the family of Baron Pechlin, was ordered to wait upon the King, and had many questions put to him respecting the General's intentions. He answered that he thought himself very happy to be perfectly ignorant of those

Q

matters;

matters; for he would have been under the cruel alternative of either betraying his friend or acting unsincerely to his sovereign; and he would not live the day that he should be guilty of either.

All those who had taken the oath, or were in the King's interest, were desired to wear a white handkerchief tied round the left arm: and such was the general enthusiasm in the King's favour, that there was no gentleman seen without that mark of loyalty. The handkerchief is still worn in the same manner by the Swedish Officers, in remembrance of the Revolution.

The common people were no less zealous; large numbers followed the King
with

with loud huzzas wherever he went, and he often spoke to them, to recommend order and a peaceable behaviour; in which he was very well obeyed, as there was not the least violence committed.

The Members of the Diet proved also very conciliating. The King made them assemble in the great hall of the Palace to agree upon the new form of government; and in case of objections, he had in his pocket three different projects; the last of which, written by Count Hermanfson, deviated very little from the original constitution of 1720; another written by the King himself, was nearly the same as had been followed in the times of Gustavus Adolphus; and between both

was that of Count Scheffer. Thus there could be no pretence for any delay, and the King was resolved to have one of them signed before they parted. His own scheme was the first proposed; and after having read it quite through, he called aloud upon the Four Orders for their opinion, and told them that every individual had full liberty to make his remarks; but there was none made: and thus the first project passed, and was received as a fundamental law. It is true that there were none of those Members present who usually spoke in the Diet; but it must also be allowed that the King was very moderate in his demands. The authority he had reserved to himself was, in the letter of the law, far beneath that
of

of the King of Great Britain: though in fact it was very unlimited the fix first years, nobody thinking proper to contradict him in regulations and measures that were all evidently calculated for the good of the country.

The officers who had co-operated in the Revolution, were all advanced one degree, and decorated with the Military Order; the citizens, with gold and silver medals, on a white ribbon, in the button hole: the serjeants had the same medal on a blue ribbon; and the common soldiers had each of them a small present in money. This last recompence was the most scarce at the time, the King being very ill provided with cash, and among all the bankers in the capital no

money could be had, except from Mr. Peil, son in law to the late Mr. Grill. He offered to the King all the ready money he had; and the King felt so strongly the value of such assistance in so critical a moment, that he never mentioned it but with the strongest sentiments of esteem, allowing the service to be so great that it was not in his power to reward it.

We have left the Senators confined to the Council-room. There they remained very uncomfortably together for three days, until the new form of government was received by the Diet. They were then at once discharged from their captivity and from their trust; though some of them were called back again to their places
in

in the new Senate, in composing which the King paid more regard to personal merit than to political sentiments.

After the first surprise was over, the depressed party looked about them with astonishment, and wondered how they could have suffered themselves to be overcome by so small a force as the King had employed, and which was all within his power for the moment. The King was sensible of this himself; and for fear of any rash attempt from the malecontents, he was obliged to keep them in awe by spreading continual reports of a numerous body of troops from Finland, under the command of Colonel Sprengporten. Large quantities of provisions

were sent every day for the subsistence of this supposed army, while Colonel Sprengporten, with a detachment from the garrison of Sweaborg, was detained by contrary winds in the gulph of Finlandia : when he arrived, all was settled, and the Diet near its end.

Before he left Finland, he had, with some of his light dragoons, surpris'd the commander of Sweaborg, General Bioernberg, made him a prisoner, together with those officers who were in the interest of the Diet, and made the garrison take an oath of implicit obedience to the King : he also secured the Senator Baron Reuterholm, a nobleman very much respected in the country, and one of the principal
 leaders

leaders of the opposite party; so that it must be allowed he had given unequivocal proof of his abilities and undaunted zeal for the King's cause. He was rewarded with the Great Cross of the Military Order, raised to the rank of General, and appointed to the command of the King's Guards, from which Count Axel Fersen had been removed on purpose and placed in the Senate.

Every thing was satisfactory to Colonel Sprengporten so long as the King had new marks of favour to bestow on him, and would take his advice on every occasion; but a trifling dispute he had with the officers in the Guards, and which the King decided in their favour because

it

it was just, put him so much out of humour, that he forgot that the King's friendship was now more necessary to him than his to the King, and carried his resentment to an open rupture. He immediately resigned his place; and when the King would not receive his petition for that purpose, and entreated him to reflect more coolly on the subject, he left the King in a fury, and flung the paper at the Secretary of State, whom he met on the stair case, and swore a great oath that he never more would put his foot within the King's Palace or have any thing to say to him. He went directly home, and retired to bed, where he remained for the most part of the time he had yet to live, a victim to the
 rage

rage of disappointed pride, and the torments of a most violent temper.

The King, justly displeased at his behaviour, granted him his request; and to avoid creating any jealousy in disposing of such a place, his Majesty reserved it to himself, and has ever kept it afterwards; leaving all the emoluments to General Sprengporten as long as he lived; and since his death they have been appropriated to the use of the state.

Thus one of the most active spirits in Sweden found himself reduced to a state of perfect idleness in the prime of his political life. Anger and despair almost deprived him of reason. He imagined he
felt

felt his heart growing to a greater bulk, and was in perpetual apprehension that it would burſt. His pain, real or imaginary, was ſuch, that he lay almoſt in a continual agony, and nothing could give him relief but muſic. He had therefore a concert every night, and ſpent moſt part of his income on ſplendid ſuppers and preſents to fingers with other muſical virtuofos: but at laſt the moroſeneſs of his temper became proof even againſt the charms of harmony. He profeſſed ſuch a diſlike to his fellow creatures, that he would at any rate be entirely out of their reach: he was conveyed almoſt like a dead corpe to a country houſe, where he enjoyed rather the horrors than the
peace

peace of solitude, till his sufferings put an end to his life.

Notwithstanding he boasted the service he had done the King, and exclaimed against what he called the ingratitude of his Sovereign, it is probable that the King would either have failed in the accomplishment of his designs, or have exposed his subjects to all the rage of a civil war, if he had waited for the assistance of General Sprengporten. The regiment of Uplandia, commanded by the Lieutenant Colonel Baron Cederstroem, who entirely sided with the opposite faction, was within half a day's march of the capital; and it was no secret that this regiment was to relieve the guards in their duty

at

at the King's palace, and that consequently the officers would be entrusted with the military attendance on his person; and the King, thus reduced to a quite passive state, would have been a suffering witness of the melancholy condition of all those who had ventured every thing to serve him. With feelings like his, death would have been preferable to such an existence; and I am very certain that he would in the end have sacrificed his life to serve them, even when there would have been no probability of success.

It was the approach of this sad prospect which put the King under a necessity of acting; and as soon as his determination was taken, he sent the General

Baron

Baron Ramsay to meet the Uplandia regiment, and employ all the means of authority as well as persuasion to make them return home.

To surprise the officers into compliance, the General told them that the change in the form of government was already carried into execution, and that he was ordered by the King to make them take the oath accordingly. The officers held a short consultation; of which the result was, that General Ramsay should be taken into custody, and their march continued towards the capital; but that in the mean time an express should be sent to receive orders from the Senate how they should act on the occasion. There were some
few

few who dissented, but none thought fit openly to oppose the common resolution, except one Normelin, an old Ensign who had served during the whole war in Germany, but for want of money or friends had never been advanced. This man, known and respected by all the common soldiers, thought he would venture to give his opinion on the subject: he reminded the officers how many years he had served in the regiment, and hoped every body would allow him to have never been backward in doing his duty; but as the respect due to the character of an officer could give no room to form the least doubt on what had been told them by the Général, he found, that as matters then stood, marching farther on towards the capital would

would be not only a want of obedience but downright rebellion against their lawful Sovereign: he added, that for his part he would not agree to any such proceedings, and could answer for all the brave and worthy people in the regiment, that they would never bear arms against their King. A universal cry of approbation from the soldiers having given a due weight to his opinion, he proposed taking the oath required, in which the greatest part of the officers then joined; and Baron Cederstroem, with some few more who refused, were taken into custody, and sent to the capital.

I suppose that General Ramsay forgot to mention to whom he owed his safety

R

and

and success; for Mr. Normelin had no share in the plentiful distribution of Royal favours on this occasion. He soon after resigned his commission; and is only indebted to his skill and labour as a farmer for the support of a numerous family.

Thus very essential services, done by persons of no great name, often escape the notice of the best of Princes. But these are small blots on a fine picture, of little or no consequence with regard to the whole.

An event of such importance, effected by such weak means, does honour to the Monarch in the same measure as it proves
the

the affection of his subjects. When King Gustavus was congratulated on so happy an issue, he said, with a modesty becoming a person who had done a great action, that it was the work of Heaven, not his own.

C H A P.

CHAPTER VIII.

AS in the surprizing revolution already described, General Pechlin was the only person who attempted any resistance, he was also the only sufferer by the King's success.

If he had been present, it is very likely he would have submitted with the rest of the party; but absent, and perfectly ignorant of what had been done, he was obliged to take some measures for what he thought the public interest as well as his own safety; and his behaviour was strongly misrepresented by persons who, to give themselves

themselves a greater importance, would make up some bugbear to fight with. By them Baron Pechlin was exhibited as capable of the most dangerous schemes; and several occurrences in his conduct were put forth as so many proofs of his enterprising genius, and indifference about the justice of the means, only as they could serve him to gain his point. A short sketch of his life will better enable the reader to judge how far these imputations were founded.

Baron Pechlin is a Swede more by choice than by his birth. His father was Ambassador from the Duke of Holstein to the Swedish Court, and had several other sons, who entered into the service of Rus-

fia, as soon as the young Duke was appointed successor to his aunt, the Empress Elizabeth. But this son was then already an officer in the Swedish army, and had made the campaign against the Russians in Finland. His inclination for the daughter of Mr. Plomgren, one of the chiefs of the party who had brought on the war against Russia, attached him yet stronger to the country interest, and made him attentive to every step of the Russian faction, who had frequent meetings at his father's house; he once concealed himself in a chimney to overhear their consultation. In the battle against the rebellious Dalecarlians, 1743, he served as a volunteer, and obtained soon after a letter of naturalization and introduction among the Swedish nobles.

Some

Some years after, being the eldest Captain in a country regiment, the place of Major falling vacant, he thought it was his right to be appointed to that trust, but being excluded by some management of his Colonel; of which he was informed, he immediately paid the Colonel a visit, and presented to him a pair of pistols. The old coward screamed out, rang the bell, called all the people in the house to witness how he had been attacked in his own apartments, and intended a prosecution against Baron Pechlin; who very calmly told the gentlemen that he could not conceive the reason of all this bustle; he was only come to present his Colonel with some remembrance of him; and as a proof that he could have no other intention, he shewed to every one present that the

pistols were not charged. The Colonel and his fright were very much laughed at; and the old King Frederic was so well pleased with the story, that he made Baron Pechlin a Major in the Hessian troops, and promised him a preferment in the Swedish army on the first opportunity.

About this time Baron Pechlin married the lady already mentioned, and was by that means more closely connected with the party. He co-operated with Count Ferfen at the remarkable Diet of 1756 as to the vindication of the fundamental laws, but did not agree with him in the measures that occasioned Sweden's partaking in the war against Prussia; and therefore he joined with the opposite party

at

at the Diet of 1761, in making the Senate responsible for such a step, taken without the positive consent of the Diet. The Senators lost their places; but the party were so incensed against Baron Pechlin for his pretended apostacy, that they employed all their power and resources to have him excluded from the House, both that and the following Diet. They carried their point by one single voice; and it was even a common whisper that five votes in his favour had been omitted in counting, through their manœuvres.

As the Baron had employed a great deal of money on this occasion, he found his property greatly reduced, and was obliged to retire with his family to his
country

country seat in Smalandia, where also the regiment was stationed of which he was Colonel. In some years, by œconomy, he brought his affairs into order; he again appeared on the political stage, and resumed all his former influence in the Diet of 1768.

His principal object always was the preservation of the established form of government; and he never entered so far into any party interest, as to sacrifice that first point: thus, when the prevailing party attempted to secure their future superiority, by extending the power of the Senate and encroaching upon the rights of the people, he immediately threw himself into the opposite party, and by their assistance

assistance prevented the establishment of a perfect Aristocracy in Sweden; for no other name could be given to a form of government in which the Senators would have the right of filling the vacant places among themselves with men of their own choice, and only convoke the Diet when they should think it necessary. By this opposition, Baron Pechlin made himself so much disliked by the ruling party, that a secret resolution was taken to exclude him for ever from the House, whenever they should find themselves strong enough to carry the question: but that opportunity never occurred; as the Democratic interest was ever after prevailing, till the moment of the Revolution.

It

It would perhaps have been more advantageous to the family of Baron Pechlin, if he had never entered on the political stage: possessing some valuable landed estates and iron works, and being a very good husbandman, it would have been much more profitable to him, had he employed his time in that way.

He was greatly esteemed for his skill and conduct in the military line: the destruction of the Prussian fleet at Frishhaff in the war of 1757, was entirely his work; and the late King of Prussia, though he very much regretted the loss of his vessels, found his enemy's operations so well combined, and executed with so much courage, that he could not help expressing his esteem for the General, asking
several

several particulars respecting him of the Swedish prisoners, and wishing he could once have him also in his power, only to make acquaintance.

From the opinion of so competent a judge, one may conclude, that the political misfortunes of General Pechlin, which obliged him to leave the service, deprived his country of a very good officer.

I have already said that he left the capital with intent to join his regiment; but before he could reach it, the Duke of Ostrogothia had made them take the new oath, and had given orders to the officers to arrest the General where ever they could find him. He had so much
the

the love and esteem of his officers, that none of them would have lent their assistance to any such thing, had not a new Major been placed in the regiment on purpose; and it was by him that the General was taken, as he passed through Linkoepping, a country town in the road to the southern provinces.

He was immediately carried to the Duke, who desired him to take the oath on the new form of government: Baron Pechlin asked the favour to be made acquainted with the tenor of those new laws; the Prince replied that he had not a copy as yet, but thought the General would do as others, and swear to the articles that had been agreed upon between

tween the King and the Diet, whatever they might be. The General replied, that as he would take the oath with an intention to keep it, he should wish to know before hand what engagement he was making. The Duke was not perhaps very circumstantial in his report to the King: the substance was, that the General was arrested, and had refused to take the oath. The King's answer was also very laconic: that the General should be conveyed to the castle of Gripsholm, and be closely guarded. There he was confined in the same room where the unhappy King Ericus XIV. had been long time a prisoner, and where a path is marked in the floor by his continual walking.

The

The Castle was now filled with a numerous guard, and a Major Pope ordered to be constantly in the General's chamber. Having accidentally seen a copy of the new form of government, signed in due form by the Speakers of the Four Orders, he offered to take the oath, but was answered that it was now too late.

He was here kept a prisoner for more than four months, after which he was transported to Stockholm, to be judged by a Court Martial under the direction of General Horn, who had been created a Count after the Revolution, more for his zeal than from any real service. This nobleman was a near relation to Baron Pechlin, and was afraid of nothing more than

than to be thought partial to him upon that account.

As the charge laid against him was no less than rebellion and high treason, it was very difficult to find a lawyer who would undertake to be his council. He had thought upon an old friend of his, one Mr. Ekman; but this gentleman having excused himself under a very pitiful pretext, it raised the indignation of a young Judge, Mr. Blix, inasmuch that he went to the General's lady, and offered his service to defend her husband's cause.

The chief accusation was, that the General had absconded from the capital

S

after

after he well knew what was going on; and that no other could be his intention than to oppose the measures then taken by the King to restore peace and order in the country. To this it was answered, That the General went away for no other reason than to join his regiment, and *that*, in consequence of positive orders signed by the King. He feared the less that his conduct in that respect would be condemned by the Court, as all the Members were military men, who must know very well that it is the duty of an officer to obey orders, without reasoning about what may be the consequence. As to his supposed intentions, he was not accountable for them; but as far as they may be proved by facts; and he

would

would defy any one to point out any circumstance in his conduct, that was inconsistent with his duty in the character in which he acted, as dependant on the late Government, which claimed his respect till a new one was duly authorized and settled. The Court Martial being at a loss how to find him guilty, and not daring to acquit him before they knew the intentions of the King, who was then at Ekolfund, at the distance of near fifty miles from the capital, they adjourned for further information. But it being contrary to the privileges of the Swedish Nobility, that any of their members should be kept in prison without being fully convicted of a crime, the General's Council asked the Court if they •

had any other instructions to follow in the process than the laws of the country? and as they answered they had none, he begged to be informed, who was to be accountable for the General's longer detention, since nothing could be laid to his charge that would authorize such a treatment? and on receiving no satisfactory answer from the Court Martial, it was resolved that the General should have a petition presented to the King, acknowledging that some reports respecting his conduct might have afforded political reasons for his imprisonment, but as it was now sufficiently proved before the Court Martial, that such reports were false, he supplicated to be protected by his Majesty in all the rights of a citizen, and begged
that

that the Court Martial might be ordered to release him, from a confinement for which there was now no reason.

The King immediately complied, and Baron Pechlin was set at liberty. As from some previous offers made him to have the command of the King's forces in Germany if he would consent to give up his Swedish regiment, he had reasons to conclude that he had been represented as a dangerous subject, the first use he made of his liberty was to resign his military employments, and that without being indemnified either in money or by preferment. He now retired into the country, and endeavoured to make up by

œconomy the losses he had suffered during his confinement.

The Governors of the Provinces having seized on his oxen and horses for the taxes, and deprived his stewards of the means of providing for the necessary work either in the field or in the iron mines, he lost the amount of two years of his usual income, and has been obliged to part with almost one half of his possessions, to enable him to put the other into a proper state of cultivation.

In the three following Diets of the present reign he has acted with great moderation, though always as much as possible upon his former principles.

C H A P-

C H A P T E R IX.

DURING the six first years after the Revolution, King Gustavus was perhaps the most happy monarch upon earth: the admiration of Europe, the love of his subjects, peace with his neighbours, tranquillity and plenty within the kingdom, literary glory, variety of amusements; in short, every thing was agreeable to his utmost wishes.

If the King during this space of time was universally beloved, it must be owned that his conduct furnished a series of proofs, that he intended to employ his

new authority more to serve his country than to please himself; and never, so short a time gave birth to a greater number of useful enterprizes. The kingdom, enervated by long internal disorders, wanted an intire regeneration, and that was most effectually undertaken.

The public credit was so much undermined, that the Bank-notes were reduced to less than half their original value in comparison to gold and silver coin, which was become exceedingly scarce; and the exchange was so wavering, that the profit arising from buying and selling bills, was almost become the chief object of mercantile speculation. To remedy this evil, a new department of Finances was instituted

tuted under the direction of Baron Lillien-
crantz, who put a stop to all such traffic
by fixing the exchange upon reasonable
terms, considering the circumstances, and
furnishing the Bank with cash sufficient
to answer any demands for changing bills
at the stipulated price; to produce the
quantity of silver required for such a pur-
pose, the new Minister of Finances had
pawned the revenues of the Crown from
the copper mines for a number of years;
and having by those means been able to
pay all the debts of the Crown to the Bank,
in silver species, that coin, together with
an immense quantity of copper in the pos-
session of the Bank, made up a fund which
perfectly answered the purpose, and has
been

been continually encreasing to the present time.

Agriculture, the chief source of public riches, has been encouraged by assuring to the cultivators the enjoyment of their industry. The numerous crown farms have been let at a longer lease, and some with reversion to the eldest son in perpetuity, as long as the taxes are duly paid. A free commerce with corn has also been permitted all over the kingdom.

The regular troops have been completed to the effectual number of 54,000, provided with new fire arms, and all the necessaries of war.

The

The fleet, of which there was hardly one vessel fit for service, has been carefully repaired, and many new vessels built. The sailors, to the number of near 20,000 have been either employed on board the King's ships, or permitted to serve in merchantmen to keep them in exercise ; and the new established Greenland Company is also calculated for the same purpose.

The culture of hemp for the use of the fleet has not only been encouraged, but even enjoined as a duty, on all those who keep some lands belonging to the Crown, within the territories of the cities.

The manufactures in iron and copper,
have

have by judicious encouragements been brought to an uncommon perfection.

All these improvements were to many objects of the public gratitude solemnly expressed by the Representatives of the Nation in their Assembly of 1778: but before the conclusion of this Diet the seeds of dissention between the King and the people had taken root, and have since been continually breeding into a more general discontent.

The King, in consequence of an old political rule, *Divide et impera*, had at the beginning of this Diet, re-established the ancient classes among the Swedish Nobles, viz. the Nobility, Knights, and Gentry.

Every

Every individual was to vote within his Class, and the plurality of Classes was to constitute the plurality of the House. By this means the King intended to secure his influence, by the co-operation of the two upper Classes; who being less numerous, and in a station of life more susceptible of that sort of ambition which depends upon the favour of the Court, could more easily be brought into his interest than the whole body of the Nobles, among whom there were many who had never seen the Court, nor desired to see it. But this scheme proved unsuccessful: the Members of the two Upper Classes put their compliance at so high a rate, that no offers could bring them to pursue the desires of the King; and those
of

of the Third Class, having formerly had an equal right with the first Counts of the kingdom, were exasperated to find their voices reduced to the sixth part of their former consequence; and thus the House has ever since been in opposition, and will probably continue so.

A motion by Mr. Hummelhielm, tending to ascertain the limits of the King's power, and the rights that were yet left to the Representatives of the Nation, put a sudden end to the Diet. The registers of the deliberations were intended to be published, and some sheets had already been printed; but now the rest was sealed up, and will probably long remain in the same state.

The

The Diet of 1786 began in the same manner as the other had finished. The convocation was published in the remote Provinces, when no one in the capital expected it; and the Russian Ambassador, Count Mufhin-Pushin, fell into disgrace with the Empress for not having informed her of that event before the report was brought to Petersburg from the frontiers of Finland. It is generally believed that the only intention of the King in calling this Diet, was to cross some measures of the Russian Court, as it really did, in putting off the intended coronation at Cherson. The propositions made to the Assembly were not of such great consequence but that they might very well have been delayed, or have been decided without consulting

consulting the Representatives ; the more, as it was too probable they would not meet with their approbation. The project of General Toll, to convert into a money tax several articles furnished by the landholders for the subsistence of the soldiers during their exercises every year, was unanimously rejected ; and when the King insisted on a categorical answer to the proposal for a perpetual land tax on the distilling of brandy, Count Fersen declared it to be a question of so much importance, that the decision of it ought to be deferred till another Diet ; and his opinion was adopted with great applause by the whole House.

The King carried but one of his points,
which

which was the establishment of granaries, to be a resource in years of scarcity; and that the money should be advanced by the national Bank. Baron Degeer warmly opposed this proposition, and asked who would answer that the money should be employed to no other use? but Baron Pechlin replied, that as the project was very good in itself, it would be very illiberal in the Diet not to give their assent; observing in the mean time that the blame would not fall upon them if there should be any fault in the execution; but that they would be very blameable indeed, if so useful an undertaking should fail for want of their compliance. This opinion being also supported by Count Fersen, about 150,000*l.* sterling was al-

T

lowed

lowed for that purpose; and as the money is laid out, I suppose the institution is already on a good footing.

This was the only vote of extra expenditure the States came to; they were in other instances so addicted to œconomy, that they would not even relieve their fellow citizens, who worked the copper mines, with loans on what copper they could not sell, as had formerly been the practice: but the King, who could not bear to see such useful subjects in distress, got them accommodated by other means.

Though the King met with so little compliance from the Diet, they found him very ready to agree with their wishes.

He

He gave up a very essential prerogative, which he could claim according to the old form of government ever since the time of Gustavus Adolphus, as well as by the construction of an article in that of 1772. The privilege was, that when the Orders of the Diet were divided in their determination on any question, the King should have the right of deciding the question: but upon the representation of the Diet, the King consented to pay a constant regard to the determination of the majority of the Orders, and to give up his privilege of deciding on a question when the Orders were equally divided: he also complied with their request that employments military and civil should be appointed for life, unless for mal-practices,

of which the accused should be convicted in a Court of Justice; except those places which, according to the fundamental laws, depended upon the Monarch's own pleasure.

This Resolution was passed in consequence of a Captain Ehrenpohls being dismissed, and obliged to leave the country, because he had spoken injuriously of Baron Henry Sparre, one of the King's favourites, though the affair was of no other nature than might have been conciliated between the gentlemen themselves, without the interposition of his Majesty.

The States, before they parted, gave a proof of their independent and contradictory spirit in deducting one per cent
from

from the taxes the King had required for the necessities of the State. His Majesty repented their behaviour in a severe though fatherly manner, at the close of the Diet, and could not help telling them with some displeasure, that as he found they were so very much mistaken as to his intentions, it should be a long time before he would call them together again.

This Diet greatly dissatisfied the King: several of the Nobility whom he had treated with particular friendship, and made almost his constant companions, were now inflamed with the spirit of opposition and independance: Count Brahe, whom the King had acknowledged as a relation to the Royal Family, and honoured with all

the distinction belonging to such a rank, was now a leader among the malecontents, and expressed himself in terms, that agreed very little with the sentiments the King had expected from him. It is true, there had been some difference before, occasioned by the Baron Sparre already mentioned, whom the King would promote to the rank of a Captain-Lieutenant in the band of Gentlemen Pensioners, and thereby put him on an equal footing with the Count, who had the same rank, and thought he had reasons for objecting to the Baron as a comrade. Offended by such an exclusion, the Baron sent a challenge to the Count; of which the King having some suspicions, he confined them both to their apartments, and to prevent
any

any further consequences, he sent the Baron upon an expedition out of the kingdom. The Count soon after resigned his employment at Court, and has since occupied himself totally in his own affairs.

Several others withdrew from Court after this Diet, from no other reason than a discontent with the Administration, and dislike to the persons in whom the King placed his confidence.

Among those who opposed the Court from personal disgust, none were more violent with but little reason for complaint than Colonel Almfelt. It is true that the preferment of Baron Essen to the place of Lieutenant-Colonel in the

light dragoons, was passing over the better right of the Colonel, who was the first Major in the regiment: but if the King in this instance shewed some partiality to Baron Effen, he has also done a great deal for Colonel Almfelt, who at the time of the Revolution in 1772 was an Ensign without pay; and had since that time been knighted, raised to the rank of Nobility, and advanced to an honourable post in the army; from which, when he retired out of resentment, the King granted him some other advantages worth near 2000l. a year.

CHAPTER X.

THE declaration of the King, that it would be a long time before he should see the States assembled again, was perhaps a great reason why he seemed to avoid a Diet at the beginning of the present war, and therefore put off the convocation as long as possible; but several other methods for getting money having proved ineffectual, this appeared to be the last resource: but yet there are people who pretend to be well informed, who say that the King was so far from having any objection to a Diet, that all the preparations for a war, and its finally
bursting.

bursting out, were only a prelude to the Diet; as the state of the Finances had made it absolutely necessary, and there only wanted an apparent strong reason for such a step.

It has the appearance of probability, that the measures adopted for paying the national debt having not answered so well as had been expected, there was no other way to remedy the distress of the treasury than by laying the public accounts before the Diet, and having recourse to their assistance. The additional expence of the war would be of very little fig-nification upon the whole, and there might be an opportunity in the mean time of recovering some provinces from the Rus-sians,

fians, to console the Swedes under the weight of new taxes,, and to add to the glory of their Sovereign.

The revolt in the Swedish army prevented the conquests which might have been made: but if the motive before mentioned was real, it proved very successful: the nation took upon itself an additional tax of about 300,000*l.* to be paid yearly, and made itself responsible for the whole debt, and a new loan, to be made for the expences of the war, amounting altogether to the sum of five millions sterling.

The King has also been taxed with a desire of more extensive power, and with

an

an intention to get himself declared an absolute Monarch by the troops, at the first considerable advantage he should obtain over the enemy. This suspicion the rebellious officers pretend to have been the great occasion of their backwardness at Frederickham: but if they really had an idea of any such scheme, they were greatly mistaken in the means for preventing its being carried into execution. It is visible that if the King had met with no such opposition, he would never have had any reason to desire a more extended authority, nor any plausible pretext for proposing such a thing to the nation: but the inactivity of the army from want of obedience, proved sufficiently the necessity of greater authority in the

the

the Monarch, and nothing but the pressing danger of the kingdom could have induced the majority of the Diet to grant a request of that nature. The additional power of making war and peace, and of disposing of all employments in the army, was no more than was necessary; and by a just analogy, the civil and ecclesiastical employments were comprehended under the same rule. The rights of the nation in regard to liberty and property were rather encreased than diminished; the privileges of the Nobles as to personal security and territorial benefits being extended to all settled inhabitants of the kingdom. Thus the greatest blessings often arise from the greatest evils.

There

There certainly could be no greater evil than the situation in which the kingdom was brought through this revolt in the army; and it is a matter of astonishment how the Nobles could take so warmly the part of the guilty officers, as even to resent that they had been blamed in some papers printed at Gothenburg during the King's residence there, and would absolutely have the authors prosecuted and punished. Such were the deliberations on which they spent their time, while the soldiers were starving in Finland, and the country threatened with invasions on every side. The King had made them several proposals of the utmost consequence by means of their Marshal and Speaker, Count Charles Emil Lewenhaupt; but that

Nobleman

Nobleman, who was more respectable on account of his age than his abilities, met with such a reception from several of the Members that he was obliged to beg of his Majesty to be excused from making them any further propositions. The King resented this behaviour very much; and having summoned all the Members of the Diet to assemble at the Great Hall of the Royal Palace, he publicly thanked the three other Orders for their respectful attention to his proposals, and their zeal in assisting him to relieve the distress of the kingdom: to the Nobles in general he made some friendly reproofs for their slow proceedings in matters that required the greatest dispatch; but to Count Fersen and Baron Degeer he addressed himself

self in the most severe terms upon the subject of their conduct against their Marshal, and said that he looked upon their want of respect to him as an offence against Majesty, whom he represented in their meetings. He directly accused Count Fersen with having shaken the throne of the late King Adolphus, and told him that he intended to prevent his touching the Scepter of the son. But what the King expressly insisted upon at the moment, was a reparation to the Count Lewenhaupt for the insults he had suffered in his office; and accordingly the King sent the Nobles down to their House, to deliberate on that subject. Count Fersen attempted to speak in his own defence, and several others rose to support him;

but

but the King would not hear them; he made them repeated signs to retire, which they at last did, and went down to the place of their usual meeting.

Count Ferfen, who I think was never disconcerted in his life, proposed they should look over the registers to find out what sort of insult it could be that the Marshal had complained of, nothing being mentioned but a warm debate, in which every one had employed the strongest arguments to enforce his opinion. Neither Count Ferfen nor Baron Degeer were charged with any improper expressions against the Marshal; they had opposed him because their ideas were different; but in that respect they had

U

done

done no more than was their right; thus they thought themselves in no fault with him; and could in consequence not consent to make him any reparation.

There was produced, a paper signed by near forty Members of the House, testifying several acts of disrespect and rudeness against the Marshal; but all these Count Fersen looked upon as accusers, and defied them to produce any witnesses. There was not one among a thousand persons, who would support the accusation; and most part of those who had signed it, begged leave to scratch out their names; some pretended to have been in liquor; others not to know the contents, or to have been persuaded by persons they could not disoblige.

Thus

Thus the whole House stood as one man, and proved more contrary than ever to the measures of the King; during the time that the other Orders did all in their power to evidence their attachment to his Majesty, and their zeal for the public welfare. The armed citizens of the capital, proud of the confidence the King put in their courage and faithful adherence, were ready to undertake any thing for his service; and when the King had resolved on the imprisonment of the leaders among the Nobles, he had only to mention the word to make them fly to execute his orders. The Barons Degeer, Maclean, Stierneld, the General Count Horn, Chief-Justice Lilliestrale, and several others of less note, were taken

without difficulty; but Colonel Almfelt asked to see the King's orders; and upon the answer that they had none but verbal, he told them, that as he had lately commanded the dragoons of the King's Guards, he would by no means be taken and carried in triumph by some dressed-out tradesmen, but was resolved to blow out the brains of the first among them who dared to offer any violence, or even to enter his room. The lace weaver, Captain Oldenburg, thought this warning too serious to proceed any further without having given his report; and I dare say he was not ill satisfied to give up that commission to an officer in the dragoons.

Count

Count Ferfen was taken and escorted by a squadron of Gentlemen-Pensioners. The court of his palace was filled with people of all ranks. As he went down stairs somebody whispered to him, that he had a number of friends at his service if he chose to make resistance; but the Count answered very calmly, no; I have a good conscience, and fear nothing.

The illustrious prisoners were carried to Fredrichhoff, a large unfinished house formerly inhabited by the Queen Dowager, and had now been put in repair under pretence of lodging the officers from Finland, summoned to appear before a Court Martial. The rooms were splendidly fur-

want of being frequented. The King, though an enemy to solitude, bore all this with an admirable patience, till he had gained all his wishes from the three Orders; and then he reconciled himself at once with the Nobles, by an unexpected visit paid them at their House; wherein the King alone debated all the points in question against the whole Assembly, and in three hours time made them consent to the propositions on which they had been deliberating so many months to no purpose.

This step having brought the Diet to a successful issue, the prisoners at Fredrickshoff were set at liberty; and I presume to say they have very little reason

to

to retain any resentment in consequence of these proceedings. Count Fersen, by far the most reasonable among them, may perhaps be sincere enough to own, that in the King's case he would himself have acted in the same manner. During his confinement he wrote to his children that they should take no alarm from what had happened, nor manifest any resentment upon the occasion, for he was sure his Sovereign had acted from mere political motives without any personal displeasure against him; and so he enjoined them to wait with patience for an happy issue.

With all that, it sufficiently appeared he was not very partial to the new alterations in the form of government.

When

When the three Orders communicated to the Nobility their resolutions taken on that subject, and pressed the House to agree with them in the same measures, he shook his head, and said loud enough to be heard by the Deputies, “ Poor people ! one must forgive them ; they don’t understand what they are about.”

C H A P-

CHAPTER XI.

THE boldest stroke ever given to the Swedish constitution, was the annihilation of the Senate. That body, as ancient as the kingdom itself, had been respected in all former Revolutions; and though its authority has been more or less circumscribed, its existence has always been preserved. According to the form of government established in 1772, the unanimous dissent of the Senate was required to counterbalance the opinion of the King; such a case has not happened these sixteen years; and it would be very singular if a Monarch with his persuasive talents,

talents, and with an unbounded power to dispose of the places in the Senate, should not have at least one voice on his side. The King's motive therefore could not be to shake off that feeble controul, which yet kept up the appearance of the ancient constitution of the country. There must be some other cause for such an extraordinary step.

As very few are in the secrets of King Gustavus, it would rather appear a presumption to point out his motive with any degree of certainty: the only way of coming near the truth, is to take an exact review of the state of affairs, and from combining circumstances draw a conclusion

clusion of what may be the most likely, if not the identical cause.

The Senate has for several centuries been the principal support of Aristocratical interest in Sweden. Intitled to the administration of government during the absence of the Sovereign, they have commonly profited of an event so favourable to their ambition, and seemed very unwilling to part with the authority once put into their hands. During the stay of Charles XII. in Turkey, the Senate made several encroachments upon the Royal power, and at last went so far as to convoke a sort of Diet, which though it ended abruptly in consequence of the unexpected return of the King, yet it had
already

already laid the foundation to the events of 1718, as may be concluded from a project of a new form of government, presented for the approbation of the Princess Ulrica Eleonora, six months before the death of her brother, whom she was secretly appointed to succeed, in prejudice to the Duke of Holstein, a son of her elder sister. It is notorious how the Senate disposed of the name of the late King Adolphus, and that it was stamped on acts to which the King did not chuse to give his consent. It had also in the present reign been proposed to the Senate at the breaking out of the conspiracy in Finland, that a Diet should be assembled, even without the consent of the King: and though it was not complied with,

with, it was enough to give warning to the King of what might happen in other circumstances.

The violent opposition in the House of Nobility, during the last Diet, perhaps also contributed to confirm the King in his resolution of lessening the influence of that Order, if he had any such ideas before.

It is probable that the King had already in his mind decided the fate of the Senate, when he provided himself with the indirect consent of the other Orders, by the plausible proposition, " That all causes respecting the life, honour, or property of his subjects, should be decided in the
last

last instance by a Supreme Court composed of Members of all Orders, and thus every one should be judged by his peers." This regulation was certainly worthy a government which affects to preserve all the appearance of liberty; and it could not fail being approved. The King availing himself of this consent of the three Orders, had thus a lawful power to make a change in the Senate, to whom the supreme juridical authority formerly belonged in conjunction with the King, who had only a double voice upon such matters. But the change was no less than to reduce the Senate of the kingdom to a mere Court of Justice, divested of all participation in political affairs, or in any part of government.

What

What the King has gained by this innovation is obvious. There is now not the least shadow of authority but what derives from him; and thus, either present or absent, he is always the chief promoter of every step that shall have any appearance of order or justice; and without those colours very few enterprises will succeed in Sweden,

What the nation has gained by that institution is rather ideal, as is often the case with liberty itself, in political respects. It is certainly a noble privilege to be judged by one's peers, an advantage denied before to the commons, as none except the classes of the nobility could have a place in the Senate; but

if we except the respectable personal character of the new members, it is difficult to conceive how one Mr. Elers, for instance, Knight of the Polar Star, and First Secretary in the King's Chancery, can have any more interest in common with the orders of burgesſes and peaſants, than with the nobility; or why their rights ſhould be ſafer in his hands now, than ſome years hence, when his merit and ſervices may perhaps be rewarded with a coronet. There has ſeldom been heard any complaints againſt the ſentences of the Senate; and every one who has a good cauſe will think it rather a happy circumſtance, that ſome members in the new Supreme Court

Court of Justice, are appointed out of the former.

Among those, the High Chief Justice Count Wachtmeister would have had every voice in his favour, if his trust had depended upon the public choice. The King could not give a greater instance of benevolence to his subjects, than to put their rights and welfare in such hands. For though Count Wachtmeister is not looked upon as a very great lawyer himself, his integrity, humanity, and good sense is a proof against all the artifices of those who excel in the profession. He loves justice, and knows how to find her out.

It is very laudable in a person of his birth, and a more than independant fortune, to have employed himself in the study of the law, with such a zeal and laboriousness, that he had passed through all the ordinary exercises of the bar, at the age when very few give any attention to serious business. As he was above any view to make his fortune, it is visible he could have no other than to serve his country.

After having learned from his proper experience to know the nature and duties of all the lower employments in the law business, even that of a clerk to a country judge, he entered into the King's Chancery; and his protocols in
the

the sessions of the Senate made him known to the King.

It is one of that Monarch's eminent qualities, that he is an excellent judge of merit; and within very few years after their first acquaintance, the King had already elevated Count Wachtmeister to the place of Chief Justice, with the rank and prerogatives of a Senator.

There had of old been a supreme officer of the law, called *Riksdrotset*, or High Chief Justice of the Kingdom, with a pre-eminence before all the rest of the Senators. This high office the King has re-established in favour of Count Wachtmeister, lodged him in a magnifi-

cent palace formerly belonging to the family of Piper, and furnishes him with the means for keeping up such a dignity, without injuring his own fortune.

To this highest degree of human greatness to which a subject can aspire, the Count had been advanced before the age of thirty; but he is so little fond of all the pomp and grandeur that surrounds him, that he is more often seen on foot, in a dark great coat, without the Star of the Royal Orders, and without even a servant to attend him, than he is seen in his coach and fix surrounded with livery.

To his new dignity is also united the Presidentship in the King's Bench, in short
all

all that belongs to the distribution of justice in the whole kingdom is under his immediate care; and nobody has ever had the least apprehension of his being partial to his own Order, in case any of its Members should have intended an unjust lawsuit against any persons of the other orders; nor will the poorest peasant fear to claim his rights against the most opulent nobleman.

From these reasons I should be apt to conclude, that the new institution is perhaps more favorable to the Monarch's own views, than of any particular advantage to his subjects. But what entitles King Gustavus to the eternal gratitude of the Swedish people, is the extension of several
essential

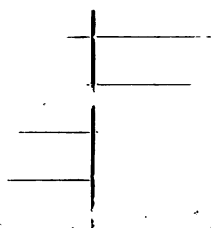
essential privileges of the Nobles to all the citizens or established inhabitants of the kingdom: Such are the perfect enjoyment of personal liberty, unless one looses it by being lawfully found guilty of any capital crime; the right of possessing lands and estates of whatever nature; a free commerce with the products of the country; the reversion of crown-farms to the children and heirs of the occupant; the admission of the Fourth Order into the secret Committee of the Diet; such advantages will elevate the minds of even the lowest class among the people to the noble ambition of freedom, and render the Swedes worthy of that blessing; as well as the Sovereign who granted them, has proved himself worthy

worthy to govern a free and noble-spirited people.

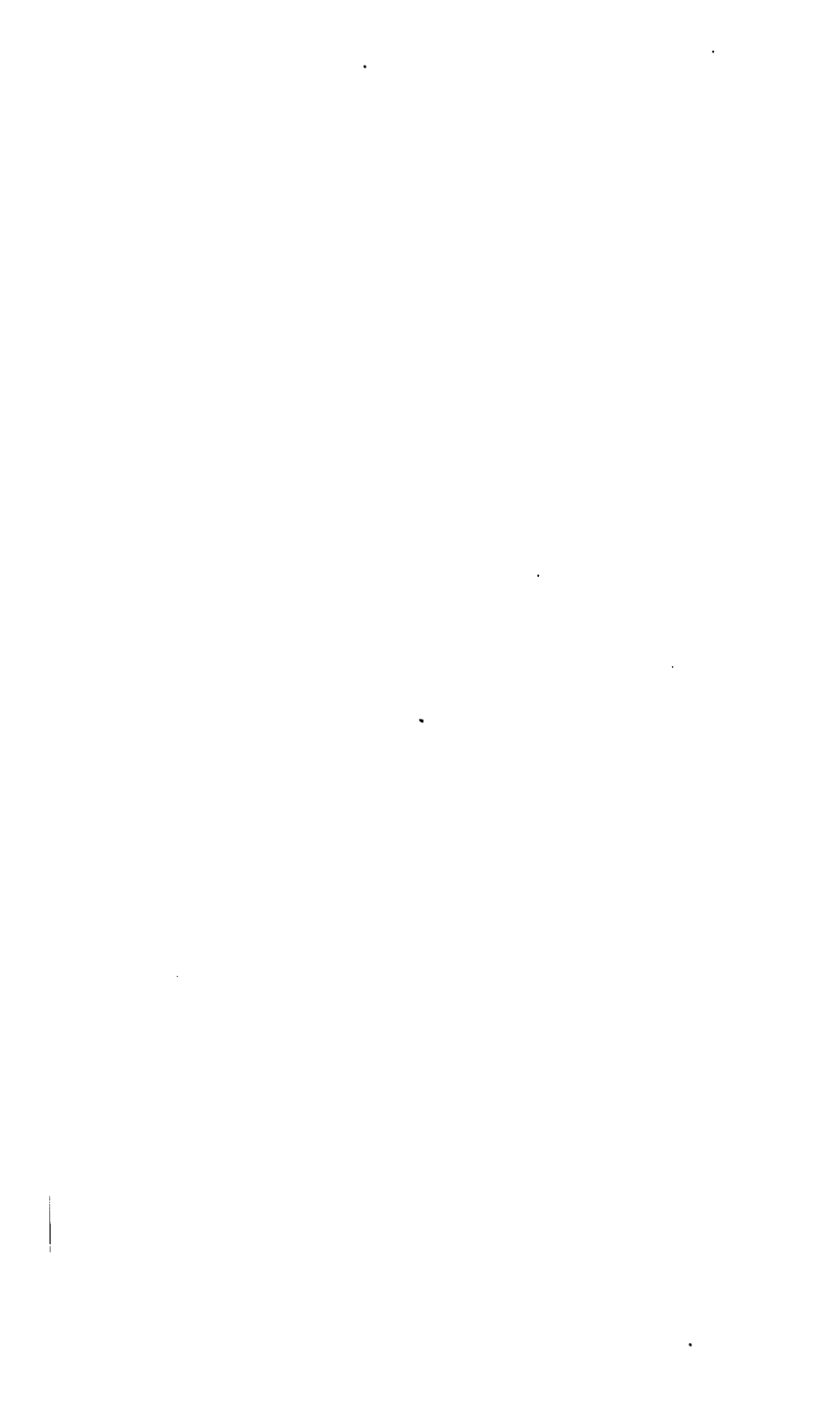
Every citizen of Sweden will be entitled to look upon the first Nobles in the kingdom as his Peers; as they are subjects under the same laws with him, he enjoys with them an equality of privileges, and may perhaps have given proofs of an equal zeal for the service of his country.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

James C. Smith
Secretary











SEP 10 1935

